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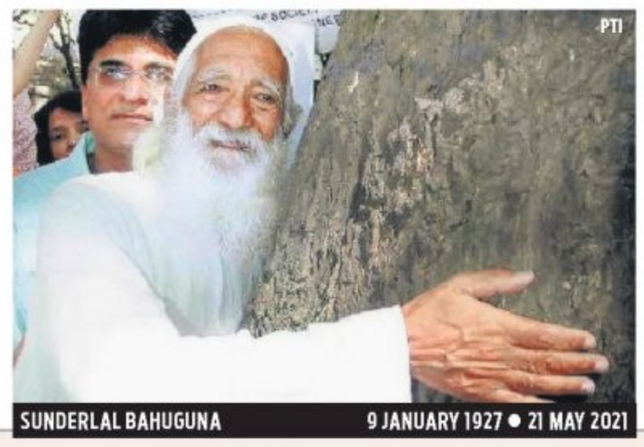


SUNDERLAL BAHUGUNA 9 JANUARY 1927 • 21 MAY 2021

CHIPKO MOVEMENT PIONEER SUNDERLAL BAHUGUNA DEAD

The 94-year-old environmentalist died of Covid-19 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Rishikesh on Friday

CREMATED WITH FULL STATE HONOURS

Bahuguna had been undergoing treatment in the hospital since May 8. He was cremated with full state honours at the Poornanand Ghat. He, along with other environmentalists, launched Chipko in 1973 in Uttarakhand (then part of UP) as a non-violent social and ecological movement of villagers to protect trees slated for government-backed logging | P7

ROPED IN VILLAGERS TO SAVE FORESTS

- Chipko means to embrace. The activists, mostly led by village women, would hug the trees and stay put often chaining themselves to the trunks so that loggers could not cut them.
- Such protests not only slowed down forest destruction but also brought the issue of deforestation to the public's attention

5,000 km

BAHUGUNA LED A PROTEST MARCH ACROSS HIMALAYAS DURING 1981-1983

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Breather for UP as SC stays HC's 'Ram Bharose' order

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

A Supreme Court bench on Friday stayed a bunch of orders on Covid management issued by the Allahabad High Court to the Uttar Pradesh government recently, agreeing they were impossible to implement.

It also advised high courts dealing with Covid cases to refrain from dealing with issues that have trans-national and international ramifications, since the top court itself is seized of pan-India matters.

The Allahabad High Court had on May 17 ordered the UP government to upgrade its health facilities on a war footing, specifically directing it to provide two ambulances with ICU facilities to each village within a month.

But a Supreme Court bench comprising Justices Vineet Saran and Bhushan Gavai agreed with the state's position, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, that UP has 97,000 villages and an order of this magnitude was impossible to implement within the HC's deadline.

"We are of the opinion that high courts should normally consider the possibility of execution of their directions. If such directions cannot be implemented, then such orders may not be passed. The doctrine of impossibility is equally applicable to courts," the bench said. It added that the high court's May 17 order can be treated as advice and not directives.

The Allahabad High Court has been scathing in its observations of the state government's handling of the pandemic, going to the extent of saying that the state's healthcare system is *Ram Bharose* (at God's mercy).

Mehta also sought a direction from the bench to transfer all Covid-19 related matters pending in various high courts to benches headed by their respective Chief Justices. "In Allahabad High Court, there are other PILs which are listed before other benches in which notice has been issued. Similar cases in other high courts too. But let such matters be placed before only Chief Justice-led benches," he urged.

However, the court said it could not pass such sweeping orders as the constitution of benches was the prerogative of the Chief Justice of the high court. "We cannot demoralise the high courts," it said.

At this, Mehta said, "Health infrastructure can never be ignored. But these directions are impossible to comply with... we understand the anxiety of the court. But this is a matter of concern. Courts should also have some judicial restraint and not pass orders which are difficult to implement."

NO STAY ON FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

"We are staying the order but we are not staying the proceedings before the Allahabad High Court. The matter be listed on July 14," the Supreme Court bench said while appointing senior advocate Nidesh Gupta as amicus curiae to assist in the matter

Police personnel stop vehicles and check them for violations during the statewide lockdown, on Nrupathunga Road in Bengaluru on Friday | VINOD KUMAR T

Lockdown extended till June 7 in state

Free treatment for 'black fungus' available at government hospitals, announces CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Friday announced an extension of the existing lockdown in the State by another 14 days. Guidelines issued for the existing lockdown will continue to be in place till June 7. The decision was taken based on the technical advisory committee's recommendations to contain the spread of Covid in the State, he said.

"We have taken the decision, keeping people's welfare in mind. This is to stop the spread of Covid at the village level and to save lives. I request citizens to cooperate," Yediyurappa appealed.

"Due to the restrictions we have ordered till May 24, Covid cases are coming under control, but we need to stop the spread at the village level. It has been decided that the lockdown will be extended by another 14 days till 6 am of June 7," he said.

"There will be no restrictions on the interstate and intrastate movement of persons as permitted by the revised guidelines and there will be unrestricted and smooth movement of all types of goods, including empty goods vehicles," said the fresh order issued on Friday evening.

KARNATAKA	MAY 20	MAY 21
Fresh cases	28,869	32,218
Recoveries	52,257	52,581
Deaths	548	353

Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar told The New Indian Express that the same regulations that are in place currently will continue. Pre-scheduled air, train travel and interstate, intrastate travel for medical emergencies, will be allowed.

"Many districts had stalled inter-district travel of all kinds due to the rise in the number of cases, but that cannot be done. This order supercedes all such local orders banning travel of goods and emergency vehicles," the Chief Secretary said.

CONTINUED ON: P3

COST OF BLACK FUNGUS TREATMENT HIGH: PANEL TOLD CHIEF MINISTER

Following reports of a surge in mucormycosis cases in Karnataka, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Friday announced free treatment at government hospitals. "Since not everybody can afford the treatment for black fungal infection given its costs, the government has decided to provide free treatment at district hospitals," Yediyurappa said. The decision comes after the technical advisory committee and health department officials informed the chief minister that the average cost to treat the condition, depending on the severity, is around Rs 4-7 lakh. "I urge everyone who has recovered from Covid, especially those with immunocompromised conditions, to take all precautions to prevent infection," Yediyurappa said in a statement later.

Need thorough study

A senior doctor at AIIMS, Delhi said she has been treating autoimmune disease patients with steroids for years, but mucormycosis cases were rare. "Something has changed now. Whether it is the use of industrial oxygen or the way oxygen has been instituted in health facilities, I am not sure. That is for researchers to find out."

A doctor treats a patient infected with mucormycosis at the NSCB Medical College and Hospital in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, on Friday | PTI

No white fungus cases in state: Docs

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

WHILE black fungus has been elevated to epidemic status, a new kind of fungal infection -- termed as 'white fungus' -- has been reported in Patna, Bihar. But experts said that no such cases have been seen in Karnataka so far.

They claimed that fungal infections have been reported among many immunocompromised patients, especially those who have recovered from Covid after staying in ICUs. "Just as mucormycosis has been loosely called 'black fungus', other fungal infections, for example, superficial and invasive candidiasis, invasive aspergillosis, etc, are now being termed as 'white fungus'. Though we used to see them in patients with very low immunity, cancers and those who have undergone organ transplant, there is a sudden rise of these infections in Covid-recovered patients due to widespread use of steroids. Other factors, including hygiene, may also be responsible. These infections are generally difficult to treat. The famous adage 'prevention is better than cure' is apt in this situation," said Shashikiran Umakanth, Professor & Head, Department of Medicine, Dr TMA Pai Hospital, Manipal University.

Dr Ravindra Mehtra, Pulmonologist, Apollo Hospitals, said that Apollo Hospitals saw 10-15 aspergillosis patients over the last few weeks and it is usually caused by inhaling aspergillus spores. P4

CENTRE AIDING STATE IN FUNGAL FIGHT

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers DV Sadananda Gowda on Friday said the Centre is aiming to meet Karnataka's demand with regard to black fungus. "The state has received 1,660 vials of Amphotericin-B so far...," Sadananda Gowda informed. P4

Industrial O_2 tied to black fungus spurt?

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

AT the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (MGIMS) in Sevagram in Wardha, a major tertiary care centre in rural Maharashtra, nearly 4,000 Covid-19 patients had undergone treatment before March this year. None developed mucormycosis, a deadly fungal disease that is posing a fresh challenge to the healthcare system in India.

Beginning April through the first week of May, when nearly 1,000 Covid patients were treated at MGIMS, 20 of them went on to develop mucormycosis, which has a reported fatality rate of nearly 50%. At present, the hospital has at least 15 patients of black fungus, in which a group of molds infect sinuses, lungs and the brain.

Raymond Savio, a critical care expert from Chennai, explains that there are multiple reasons for this fungus to infect those with Covid-19. "It's a combination of the virus, nature of treatment, steroid and other immune-suppressants, nature of body's response to Covid infection (ferritin level), uncontrolled blood sugar and humidification systems for oxygen that makes it appropriate for the spores to infect patients," he said.

The sudden and unprecedented rise in mucormycosis cases, however, has prompted S P Kalantri, a senior doctor and medical researcher at MGIMS, like many others in different parts of India, to question whether the popular perception that indiscriminate use of steroids, suppressed immunity, history of diabetes and unhygienic conditions in ICUs may be triggering this spurt in cases.

"It's my assumption and I may be completely wrong, but maybe Covid-19 virus and mucor are now hunting together. Something about the Covid-19 virus has changed over the months," he said, adding that more research is required to understand the rise in the disease. CONTINUED ON: P8

RBI hands out generous dividend amounting to 0.5% of GDP to govt

SESA SEN @ New Delhi

THE Reserve Bank of India on Friday sprang a pleasant surprise for the Centre, announcing a handsome dividend of ₹99,122 crore for FY22. Constituting 0.5% of the GDP, this is more than double the Budget estimate of ₹45,000 crore and comes as a major relief for the government reeling under strained public finances owing to the pandemic.

The surplus transfer will help the Centre provide more pandemic relief measures.

However, RBI's generosity may not be enough. In FY22, the government expenditure is set at ₹34.83 lakh crore. Revenues may come in at ₹16.5 lakh crore. So, the government will still have to raise ₹1.75 lakh crore via disinvestments to pursue its FY22 fiscal deficit target of 6.8% of the GDP.

RBI's surprise handout may have been driven by higher returns from domestic assets. "RBI recently allowed itself to book profits on its forex transactions from a weighted average cost perspective. This move could have helped the central bank boost yields on its foreign asset holdings. Increased holdings of domestic government securities likely further amplified RBI's income," said Rahul Bajoria, Chief India Economist, Barkclays.

According to Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA, the higher transfer will offer a buffer to the Centre to absorb the losses in indirect tax revenues that are anticipated in May-June 2021 due to the localised lockdowns.

Big transfer

Year	Dividend (₹ cr)
FY14	33,010
FY15	52,679
FY16	65,876
FY17	65,876
FY18	30,659
FY19	50,000
FY20	1,75,987
FY21	57,128
FY22	99,122*

*RBI is transitioning to April-March accounting year (earlier July-June). Hence, FY22 is a 9-month year (July '20- March '21)
Source: RBI

INSOLVENCY CODE

Promoters liable for their companies' debt, rules SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN what may make high-profile corporate honchos such as Anil Ambani personally liable for the loans their companies have taken but not repaid, the Supreme Court on Friday upheld the constitutional validity of the Centre's November 15, 2019 circular that brought personal guarantors of corporate loans under the ambit of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

The verdict has come as a major boost for banks, which can now seek recovery of dues from the promoter guarantors even while bankruptcy processes against the companies are pending. The order came on a plea by industrialists Anil Ambani, Kapil Wadhawan, Sanjay Singhal, and Venugopal Dhoot – whose firms are facing insolvency proceedings – challenging the 2019 notification.

According to the promoters, the Centre targeted them though the law was for individuals, corporate guarantors as well as partnership firms. The SC held that the government's intent was to implement the provisions of the IBC in a phased manner. CONTINUED ON: P10

Gujarat person steals B'luru woman's second dose!

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

AN elderly woman, a cancer patient and a resident of Vidyaranyapura in Bengaluru, was robbed of her second dose of Covid vaccine as someone in Gujarat has taken the shot which was assigned to her.

With the help of a friend, she tweeted and tagged Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Union health ministry with pictures attached to explain her situation.

Prema Jayaram (75), a former employee of Hindustan Machines Tools Ltd and a resident of Maruthi Nagar Layout in Vidyaranyapura, took her first dose at Neha Prakash Hospital on March 16, 2021. She was told to book for the second dose after six weeks.

CONTINUED ON: P5

NATIONWIDE	MAY 20	MAY 21
Fresh cases	2,76,110	2,59,551
Recoveries	3,69,077	3,57,295
Deaths	3,874	4,209

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
May 20: 14,56,088 doses
May 21: 13,83,358 doses
TOTAL DOSES: 19,32,97,222

NOBLE DUTY

Volleyball player hoists cylinders for the needy, wins hearts

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @ Davanagere

HABEEBUNISSA may be just 19, with limited resources, but has displayed grit and initiative. As Davanagere locked itself in to stave off the Covid second wave, this young woman ventured out to help the needy.

The international volleyball player has been winning hearts, especially after a video of her carrying an oxygen cylinder on her brother's bike went viral last week. The patient in distress had got a bed at CG Hospital, but there was no oxygen, and the family was asked to source a cylinder. She swung into action, collected the cylinder and rushed to hospital. She is glad that the patient survived. She went on to arrange four more cylinders.

HOPE FLOATS

The daughter of an autorickshaw driver, Mohammed Jabir, Habeebunissa has been active on many fronts -- distributing masks, arranging for oxygen and blood, and even cooking food for stranded nomadic families. She and her mother used the PDS grains that her family gets to cook the meals.

"It is our duty to save humanity from the clutches of the Covid-19. The Youth Congress is funding my initiative to provide cylinders and other social work, with some contribution from my father," she said. As vice-president of the Youth Congress Davanagere unit, she has also motivated many girls to take up sports and develop leadership skills.

She is doing her final year ITI (electrical) at Millat College in Davanagere and is an ace volleyball player. Her father Jabir, who earns ₹800 per day, and almost nothing since the lockdown kicked in, says he is happy that his daughter is using whatever he gives her to help society.

Habeebunissa en route to deliver an oxygen cylinder to the needy | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

Goa court acquits journalist Tarun Tejpal

Panaji: A sessions court in Goa on Friday acquitted journalist and former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal of sexually assaulting a former female colleague.

Mamata may contest from home turf

Kolkata: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee is likely to contest from her old bastion, Bhabanipur, after minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay vacated the seat, sources said.

Motorists navigate through sheets of rain (left), while citizens reach for their umbrellas, amidst a heavy downpour which blanketed Bengaluru on Friday evening | EXPRESS

RAIN TO LASH CITY FOR NEXT 2 DAYS: IMD

Issues yellow alert for most parts of south-interior Karnataka, including Bengaluru and Mysuru districts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast rainfall all through the weekend and that is not all, a yellow alert has also been issued for the most parts of south-interior Karnataka.

Bengaluru City, up to 5.30 pm, had received 21 mm of rainfall, while the HAL airport recorded 22.8 mm rainfall. Meanwhile, no rainfall was reported at Kempegowda International Airport. The maximum and minimum temperatures in Bengaluru were 28.5 and 21.6 degree Celsius, respectively.

India Meteorological Department - Bengaluru Director-in-charge C S Patil said that a yellow alert has been issued for the next two days across Bengaluru, Ramanagara, Kolar, Mysuru, and Chamarajanagar districts, and the surrounding areas. Patil explained that the rainfall occurred because of the formation of east-west sheer zone over south interior Karnataka.

The BBMP war room did not record any water-logging or tree fall-related complaints across the city till 7pm.

Some parts of the city, though, experienced gusty winds. The IMD has forecast strong winds with rain or thundershowers for the next two days. According to the IMD, a yellow alert is issued when the rainfall is expected to range between 64.5 mm and 115.5 mm in a span of 24 hours.

Citizens slam BBMP for triaging centre in tent

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

A make-shift tent, functioning as a Covid triaging and stabilisation centre, set up by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) at HSR Layout has come under fire from citizens.

They termed it unprofessional and unhygienic, and pointed to pedestal fans, beds, plastic chairs and an oxygen concentrator at the centre.

Manish S, a resident of the area, said, "There is no proper space for a needy patient and no one would want to rest there. We have seen nurses and paramedical staff resting on the beds in the afternoon. These are dormitory type of double beds and you can see used paper cups thrown on some of them." Another resident said that anyone visiting the centre would be infected with dengue, malaria and other diseases as no attention has been paid to keep off rains with this being the pre-monsoon season. Some alleged that Rs 25 lakh has been spent to put up the centre.

A senior BBMP official, requesting anonymity, said, "The residents are being misguided politically. For triaging and observation, a larger space was needed, and it was set up here as the area was available. All arrangements have been made and it is waterproof. The ground where the triaging centre has been put up is attached to the Social Welfare Department hostel, which is a CCC. Those who need treatment are immediately shifted there. This space is only for triaging. Rs 25 lakh has not been utlised as claimed by the residents. Only rental of Rs 1-2 lakh has to be paid."

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said that Bommanahalli zone has been directed to look for a brick and mortar building structure for housing the triage centre.

BBMP ASKS CITIZENS TO HELP IN COVID FIGHT

In wake of the plan to set up war rooms and traiging centres at the ward level, BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta took to social media, asking citizens to join as volunteers at ward-level war rooms. Those keen can register at blcares.in/#/signup/blc. He said they were looking for doctors and trained people to help in tele-triaging centres.

Food hard to come by for poor, NGO tells CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOOD is hard to come by for the poor since the lockdown, stated a letter written by the Stranded Workers Action Network (SWAN) to Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa.

Despite the economic relief package announced by the government, only a fraction of unorganised workers would benefit from it, the letter said. The amount is too little as many workers are already in debt. They are unable to buy food and ration, pay rent, electricity, water bills, purchase gas cylinders and medicines, it stated.

SWAN has been receiving distress calls from across Karnataka, especially Bengaluru. "The Karnataka High Court directed the government to provide 10 kg free ration to priority households (PHH), 10 kg at Rs 15 per kg for non-PHH, and supply dry ration kits sufficient for 21 days to the doorstep of identified individuals. Workers said they are able to access only 7 kg of rice per member, which after cleaning, dwindles to 5 kg. In the absence of regular income, this gets exhausted in three days. Further, 54 per cent did not possess ration cards," wrote Rajendran Narayanan, Anindita Adhikari, Seema Mundoli and Anushka Kale on behalf of SWAN.

In some areas, Indira Canteens are far away from settlements. The staff at the canteens have to upload beneficiary name, mobile number and photograph with the distributed food packets on a BBMP app. This is leading to long queues and crowding around canteens causing health concerns. The ration card is needed for anyone needing more than three packets. This is exclusionary as many do not have ration cards.

Sewage, effluents flowing into lake caused fish deaths, says report

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE fish deaths at Muthanallur Lake in South Bengaluru last week was caused by untreated sewage from industries upstream flowing into the lake with force due to heavy rain, as well as pesticides sprayed in fields entering into it, according to a preliminary report submitted to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). The final report will be submitted early next week.

The lake in Anekal taluk is spread over 600 acres and about two tonnes of dead fish were found floating on May 10. Two separate teams from the State Fisheries Department as well as the KPSCB visited the spot and other lakes in the vicinity this week to ascertain the cause of deaths.

C R Manjunath, Regional Officer, Sarjapur, KSPCB, who was part of the team which prepared the report, said, "None of the municipalities here have a sewage treatment plant and waste water just flows into the lakes. Due to the heavy rain a week ago, the sewage has gushed in, causing a reduction in dissolved oxygen levels, resulting in the death of thousands of fish."

About two tonnes of dead fish were found floating on the surface of Muthanallur Lake on May 10 | EXPRESS

The dissolved oxygen level should be above 4 mg per litre for fish to survive.

"We took samples from two spots for tests. The dissolved oxygen level from the sample taken at the inlet was just 2.99 mg/lt while that at the outlet was 3.29 mg/litre, which caused the tragedy," he explained.

Major Santhosh Kumar, an activist, explained that there are two streams that flow into the Muthanallur Lake, carrying untreated waste from Bommanahalli and Jigani Industrial areas. Tracing the sewage flow from Bommanahalli area, he said it entered Yerandahalli Lake, Kachanayakanalli, Chandapura and Muthanallur Lake. From Jigani, it entered Hennagara, Chandapura Lake and then entered Muthanallur.

"I have written to the KSPCB insisting that it be mandatory for the CMCs and TMCs to install STPs as all the lakes are getting polluted," he added.

Start classes for next sem, exams can wait: DyCM

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY CM and Minister for Higher Education Dr C N Ashwath Narayan on Friday instructed universities and college to continue online classes for even semesters (semester 2,4,6,8) for all undergraduate programmes. He said that there was a carryover system for most programmes, and exams could be held once the Covid-19 pandemic was under control. "We will take a call on offline classes once the situation gets better," he said.

For engineering and professional courses that have restrictions on carryover to higher semesters, he asked the principals and vice-chancellors to consult the Karnataka state higher education council.

Even in the case of post-graduate courses, the minister said that colleges which have completed classes for odd semesters (semester 1,3) can move on to taking up online classes for the next semesters and exams for the former can be scheduled once the situation is better. He attributed the delay in admissions to the pandemic.

Bengaluru North University Vice-Chancellor Kemparaju told *TNIE that* colleges were awaiting the degree results to admit students to PG courses. Bangalore University V-C K R Venugopal said that admissions still could not take place because colleges were yet to complete the current academic year 2020-21.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

22nd May: Pluto, the most distant planet, is up to its old tricks. There's a mighty shift of the celestial world which has already been pre-figured in recent global upheavals. Most astrologers are saying that in the future we need to be more realistic and less swayed by wild dreams. We need to focus on what we can do to make the world a better place. And I whole-heartedly agree.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You have a great deal to say for yourself, and now is the time to say it. Even though the tone of the times is definitely impatient, you may begin to slow the pace in various practical projects, and even change your mind over long-term plans, and all without offending partners!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Your stars really are looking quite marvellously profitable, and not a little extravagant. It scarcely matters whether you devote your day to saving or shopping, just as long as you gain a sense of satisfaction - and the feeling of a good day well spent.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The Sun aligns with your chart in a sensitive formation which brings passion and, with it, peace - but only for a while. This is an ideal moment to make friends and fall in love, so hopefully the day-to-day world can be put on hold! But you will have to make the running, otherwise opportunities will slip by unnoticed.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
This could be quite a busy time, which means that even when relaxing you'll remain active. Hopefully, once routine chores have been dealt with, you will have enough energy left over for a favourite interest: you know you have it in you to achieve great things.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Your social stars have been strong lately, and today they achieve yet another of their periodic perfect alignments. A hint of fantasy or mystery will now add spice to romantic liaisons. But what you really need is variety - and a sense that new options are opening up.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
If your professional hopes are high, there is no better day than today for building contacts and getting in touch. In fact, you need to move forward on all fronts whether your ambitions are personal or profess-ional. Circumstances may stand in your way, in which case concentrate on any community or voluntary activities.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Your romantic hopes will soon span the globe. This could mean that you love all humanity, or that the person dear to you is far away. It could also mean that there is a great distance between you and someone close to your heart, a distance which needs to be spanned now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Simple cash issues, such as how much you've got in your purse, determine what you can and can't get away with today. This is an extraordinarily positive moment for teaming up with partners in projects which combine business with pleasure. In short, the thing you want might be the thing you need!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You may be feeling a little more emotional than usual, but that's good if it helps you bring out your caring and compassionate qualities, breaking down a few personal barriers in the process. Please don't be too sensitive to criticism though - it might be good for you!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You will be keeping yourself to yourself today, and even when you're in company there'll be much going on in your head and in your heart that other people can only guess at. You may even consider cancelling at least one engagement - but you don't want to let someone down, either.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You may like to seek solace and support in the arms of your friends after what, by all accounts, has been a fairly important time in your life. Even in imperceptible ways, trivial events over the past fortnight have changed the future irrevocably. You'll find out how in good time.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Among the many issues jostling for your attention are a few which could involve the law, or perhaps ethical questions. It is, therefore, important to do what you know to be right in your heart of hearts. Other people are bound to respect you more when they see that you're doing your best.

THE PHANTOM

"IT OCCURS TO ME THAT I NEVER SAID THANK YOU, MY TRUSTED MAN."
DE NADA, CHIEF. ALL I DID WAS GET ON A BUS TO RHODIA...
AND HERE WE ALL ARE!
THEN CAME TOWNS ELLERBEE...

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

BUMSTEAD, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE TOMORROW OFF?
WHY SHOULD I TAKE TOMORROW OFF, BOSS?
NOTHING WORTH WORRYING ABOUT, MY BOY! JUST ENJOY YOUR DAY OFF
CHUCKLE! HE'LL BE HERE EARLIER THAN USUAL TOMORROW!

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

Evil: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

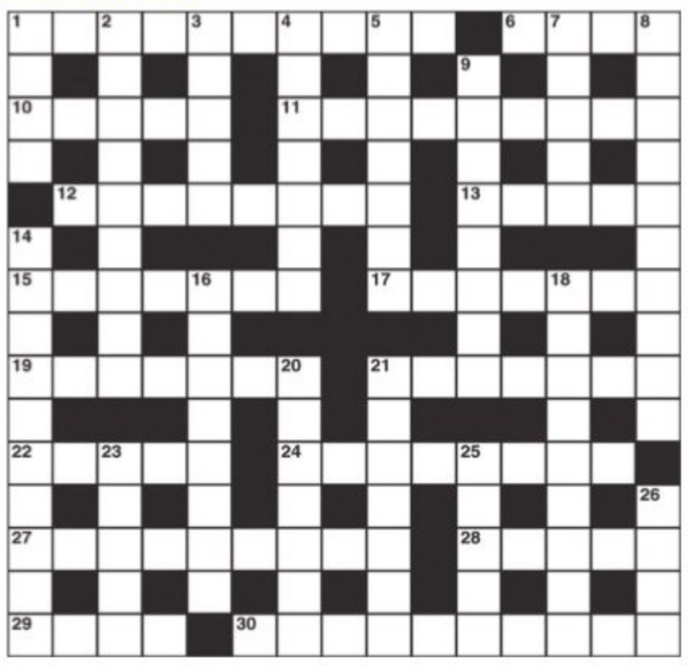
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

						8		1
		8	7	5			3	
1		2	9			4		5
8			1		7			6
6		3			2	1		7
	1			6	8	2		
3		5						

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

2	5	4	1	3	8	7	9	6
3	8	9	4	7	6	1	2	5
7	1	6	2	9	5	8	4	3
8	2	3	9	1	4	5	6	7
1	4	5	6	2	7	9	3	8
9	6	7	8	5	3	2	1	4
5	9	8	3	4	2	6	7	1
4	7	1	5	6	9	3	8	2
6	3	2	7	8	1	4	5	9

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Superior associates (5,5)
6 Huts may be built in this way (4)
10 Comes close to having a listening device fitted in quarters (5)
11 Its object is to encourage capital growth (4,5)
12 It was once the talk of India (8)
13 French city one confused with Ur (5)
15 Content with piano on hire (7)
17 Stalks out of the kitchen garden (7)
19 Row with the French continues bitterly (7)
21 Runs ten cars perhaps (7)
22 Northern vessel is not so old (5)
24 West Asian seen to prepare for war with inane resolution (8)
27 I see trial may be held in Hebrew (9)
28 House doctor out perhaps (5)
29 Call back from a screech-owl (4)
30 Render duet badly but not put off (10)

DOWN

1 Departed to travel northeast (4)
2 Alien lame from World War Two battle (2,7)
3 Competitive experiments (5)
4 Attached to a refined redhead (7)
5 He turns out to be an oriental conqueror (7)
7 He believes he comes from behind us (5)
8 The winner's apparently inferior to the runner-up (6-4)
9 Begin an unusual run as top of the bill (4,4)
14 He is bound to learn his craft (10)
16 Girl to sign for earnings (8)
18 A great man in his tory (9)
20 As in Leo perhaps from the deep? (3,4)
21 Firm politician is first on before he introduces acts (7)
23 Deserving of wealth? (5)
25 When it reacts saltpetre may be extracted (5)
26 Stimulate one to start piano and stick to it (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Nervous, 5 Cedar, 8 Withdrawn, 9 Tip, 10 Lobe, 12 Seaports, 14 Taurus, 15 Cruise, 17 Bewilder, 18 Deal, 21 Tea, 22 Enactment, 24 Niece, 25 Erasmus.

Down: 1 Newel, 2 Rat, 3 Odds, 4 Skated, 5 Conspire, 6 Determine, 7 Riposte, 11 Blue whale, 13 Bull's-eye, 14 Tibetan, 16 Relate, 19 Lotus, 20 Etna, 23 Elm.

JUMBLE

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TCPYR

SFIHT

RUNCIH

TNGETO

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This boardroom is the tops!
I wonder how the employees like it down below?
THE COMPANY'S EXECUTIVES WITH OFFICES ON THE TOP FLOOR WERE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Print your answer here:

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S: **Jumbles:**
CLIFF KNELT EMBLEM SUDDEN
ANSWER: She forgot that giraffes have seven vertebrae, but she'd try to remember — "NECKS" TIME

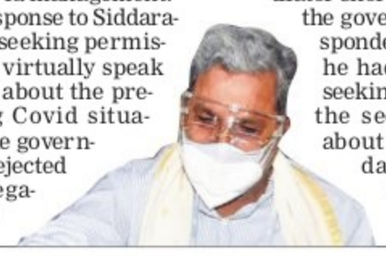
The ashes of over 1,000 Covid-19 victims are waiting to be immersed as many of the families are not coming forward to collect the urns from the cremation grounds for immersion, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said on Friday

No flow of info, will move privilege motion: Siddu

Says wasn't given permission to hold virtual meeting with Deputy Commissioners to discuss Covid management in state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

OPPOSITION leader Siddaramaiah on Friday threatened to move a 'privilege motion' against the BJP government for not according him permission to hold a virtual meeting with Deputy Commissioners of districts, seeking information and clarifications regarding Covid management.



In response to Siddaramaiah seeking permission to virtually speak to DCs about the prevailing Covid situation, the government rejected his allegations of oxygen, medicine, and ventilator shortage. He alleged that the government had not responded to 12 letters that he had written to them, seeking information since the second wave began about a month ago. Siddaramaiah said the opposition leader is a "shadow CM."

If he insists on moving a privilege motion, he will have to file a complaint with Assembly Speaker, alleging that his privilege as opposition leader has been breached, and the letter will be treated as a notice and inquired into by the Speaker. Alternatively, he will have to wait till the legislative session commences in July. when he can execute this threat of moving a privilege motion against the government. When the assembly convenes in July, the matter will be inquired into.

Revanna supports ex-CM

JDS leader Revanna said that being the Leader of Opposition, Siddaramaiah has Constitutional powers to review the state's situation and address the DCs. "The issue between the CM and Siddaramaiah is taking a political turn as questions are being raised on the powers of the leaders under the Constitution," he said. While Kumaraswamy has been critisising Siddaramaiah of late, brother Revanna has come out in support of the former CM.

BSY praises pvt sector for Covid support

ENS @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa on Friday said the Covid spread in rural areas is a cause for concern, and the government is taking measures on a war footing to fight the pandemic. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had held discussions with Deputy Commissioners from across the country, and directed them to take steps to contain the pandemic.

Speaking after inaugurating the 100-bed Covid Care Centre (CCC) set up jointly by Volvo Group and Ikea Group in Bengaluru, the CM said the government is taking all steps, and had also announced a Rs 1,250-crore special financial package for those facing hardship.

Appreciating Volvo and Ikea for opening the CCC facility, he said the State government is appreciative of the support provided by them in difficult times, and many organisations have joined hands with the government in the fight the pandemic.

Farmers in distress, help them, Board tells govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE State Planning Board has recommended that the State Government procure vegetables and fruits from farmers in distress due to the lockdown and make arrangements to sell them in urban areas by supplying the same to Hopcoms, pushcart vendors and others.

Vice-chairman of the board B J Puttaswamy said due to the lockdown, farmers were unable to sell their produce while at the same time, people were paying double to buy fresh produce.

"In order to solve the issue, the local panchayat development officer and other officials should fix a price for their produce and buy from them directly," he said.

AGRI WAR UNIT TO HELP RYOTS

Bengaluru: The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore, started an 'Agri war unit' to assist farmers by providing information about agriculture inputs and the market for their produce. Farmers from 10 South Karnataka districts that come under the UAS-B jurisdiction can call the war room (18004250571) to speak to experts. They can also send pictures related to their queries on WhatsApp (9482477812) to get assistance, said Dr K Shivaramu, head of the unit at University of Agricultural Sciences -Bangalore. ENS

OBITUARY

Babagouda Patil devoted his life to farmer' cause

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

FORMER Union minister and noted farmer leader Babagouda Patil, who was at the forefront of farmers' agitations, passed away on Friday, following a brief illness. He was under treatment at KLE Hospital and Medical Research Centre in Belagavi for some days.

After winning the Lok Sabha election from Belagavi in 1998, Babagouda was inducted into PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's cabinet as Minister of Rural Development. During former CM Ramakrishna Hegde's tenure, he had achieved a feat of sorts, winning assembly polls simultaneously from Kittur and Dharwad Rural as a Raitha Sangha man. Hailing from a farmer's family in Chikkabagewadi, Bailhongal taluk, he aspired to be an IAS officer but couldn't clear the exam. He joined Raitha Sangha under the leadership of farmer leader M D Nanjundaswamy, in 1980s.

As Union Minister, he was instrumental in getting several rural development projects implemented. The PM's Gram Sadak Yojana, implemented under his watch, helped link rural parts of the country to urban roads.

In his message, CM B S Yediyurappa said, "A leader who was at the forefront of farmers' agitations ... As leader of Rajya Raitha Sangha, Babagouda worked for the welfare of farmers"

JDS leader Krishna had eventful Speaker term

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

FORMER Speaker Krishna (81), who had an eventful stint in the Assembly, passed away at his residence in Mysuru on Friday. Krishna, who hailed from Kotha Maranahalli in KR Pet taluk of Mandya district, represented the KR Pet Assembly constituency for three terms and served as minister in the Ramakrishna Hegde cabinet.

He is remembered for his term as the Assembly Speaker for two years and was in news for denying permission to Siddaramaiah to make a speech in the Assembly, announcing his decision to quit JD(S).As a speaker, Krishna had also turned down JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda's letter to suspend his party MLAs who jumped ship with HD Kumaraswamy to form the JD(S)-BJP coalition government.

Krishna had also got elected as an MP from Mandya in 1996. Krishna, who was close to Ramakrishna Hegde and Deve Gowda, had started Bhrashtachara Virodhi Okkuta or the 'anti-corruption forum' with Gandhian HS Doreswamy, AK Subbaiah, AK Ramaswamy and others. He quit electoral politics after JD(S) fielded Mumbai businessman KC Narayana Gowda from KR Pet constituency. Krishna, who was battling liver cancer, breathed his last at his residence on Friday.

COPS TOLD

'Enforce strict lockdown'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ESSENTIALS like groceries and daily needs shops will be allowed to open between 6 am and 10 am, while milk booths and pushcarts selling fruits and vegetables are allowed till 6 pm. In-situ construction is allowed as well as food processing and medical needs manufacturing industries.

"If permission is till 10 am, people should be returning home by 9.45 am, instead of roaming about unnecessarily. The police have been asked to strictly enforce the lockdown and take action against violators," Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa added.

Oppn: Declare black fungus as an epidemic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

OPPOSITION leaders on Friday urged the State government to declare mucormycosis, or the black fungus infection, an epidemic, and deal with it on an emergency basis.

Former CM and JDS legislature party leader H D Kumaraswamy said the number of black fungus cases was on the rise, and Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Odisha and Gujarat have already declared it an epidemic. Karnataka should take a similar decision, considering central authorities have advised states to do so.

KPCC president D K Shivakumar said there is a lot of ignorance among ordinary people about this infection, and the government has to respond to it with seriousness.

SARAKKI LAYOUT BRANCH
BANGALORE.
PH 080-26588753
ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ
सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

To: Mr S Srinivas and Mrs B S Swetha # 117/2, Opp Anjaneya Swamy Temple Beereswara Nagar, Chunchghatta Main Road, Konakunte Post, Bangalore 560062.

1) We have, at your request, granted to you various credit limits for an aggregate amount of **Rs.18,00,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Only)** at **Sarakki Layout Branch,** and we give below full details of various credit facilities granted by us.

Term loan under Cent Home loan scheme- with a limit of Rs.18,00,000/- (Rupees: Eighteen Lakh only) sanctioned on 07-01-2010 favoring Mr. S Srinivas and Mrs B S Swetha -A/c No: 3060361657

2. We inform you that out of total amount of **Rs.17,06,431/-** (Rupees: Seventeen Lakh six thousand four hundred and thirty one only) due to us as on **07-05-2021** you have defaulted in repayment of entire amount of **Rs.17,06,431/-** (Rupees: Seventeen Lakh six thousand four hundred and thirty one only) due to us as on **07-05-2021** plus further interest/Charges there on.

3) As you have defaulted in repayment of your full liabilities, we have classified your dues as **Non-Performing Asset** on **30.04.2021** in accordance with the directions or guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

4) We also inform you that in spite of our repeated demand notices & oral requests for repayment of the entire amount due to us, you have not so far paid the same.

5) You are aware that the various limits granted by us are secured by the following assets/security agreements (secured assets) :

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY/SECURED ASSET:

Property owned by: Mr S Srinivas and Mrs B. S Swetha. All the piece and parcel of site no 2/A out of khata no 33/2 and 33/3, situated at Chunchghatta Vilaage, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore south Taluk, Bangalore 560062, Measuring East to West 20 ft and North to south 30ft totally measuring 600 sqft. Along with Building with all amenities bounded as follows: East by: Property belong to Smt.Sujatha West by: Property belongs to Sri Murugendran, North by: Property belongs to Sri Shivaraju, South By: Road.

6) For the reasons stated above, we hereby call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities to us within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of notice, failing which we will be exercising the powers under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of security interest Act, 2002, against the secured assets mentioned above. The powers available to us under section 13 of the Act, interalia, includes (i) Power to take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset, (ii) take over the management of the business of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured asset,(iii) appoint any person as Manager to manage the secured assests the possession of which has been taken over by us (secured creditor) and any transfer of secured asset by us shall vest in the transferee all rights in, or in relation to the secured asset transferred as if the transfer had been made by you. (iv) require at any time by notice in writing, any person who has acquired any of the secured assets from you and from whom any money is due or may become due to you, to pay to us (secured creditor), so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the secured debt.

7) The amount realized from the exercising of the powers mentioned above, will first be applied in payment of all costs, charges and expenses which in the opinion of us have been properly incurred by us or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly applied in discharge of the dues of us as mentioned above with contractual interest from the date of this notice till the date of actual realization and the residue of the money, if any, shall be paid to you.

8) Please take note that after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor. We draw your attention to section 29 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, which awards imprisonment up to one year, or with fine, or with both, if you contravene the provisions of the Act.

9) We also inform you that, notwithstanding the action or proceeding under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, we reserve our right either (i) to simultaneously file, proceed and pursue suits/Applications/cases against you and or guarantors before DRT/Court, as the case may be , to realize the outstanding dues from you and guarantors, and or (ii) to proceed against you and or guarantors before Debts Recovery Tribunal/Courts, for recovery of the balance amount due to our Bank, if the entire outstanding amount together with the contractual rate if interest, are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured assets. (iii) to proceed against you and or guarantor/s for initiating Criminal action for the acts, or omission committed by you under the provisions of law.

10) Your attention is invited to provisions of sub sec(8) of sec (13) of the act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.

To:

BORROWER/S AND GUARANTOR/S ADDRESSES : 1. Mr. A P Kaveramma (Guarantor) W/o Shivprasad, No 25, Beereswaranagar, Chunchghatta Main Road, Konakunte, Bangalore-560062 **2. Mr.Natraju S/o M P Swamy (Guarantor)** No 68, JananiNilaya, 5th Main, Bhuvaneswarinagar, R T Nagar Bangalore 560032.

Date: 07.05.2021
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer / Chief Manager
Central Bank of India

Andrahalli Branch,
No.606, Syndicate Bank Layout,
Andrahalli Main Road, Herohalli, Off Magadi Road,
Bengaluru-560091, Karnataka
E-mail: bm263@andhrabank.co.in
यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002

Enforcement of security interest Action Notice-In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with in the branches mentioned herein below-classified as NPA.

We have to inform you that you whose Name & Address mentioned here in below had availed following credit facilities from **Union Bank of India, Andrahalli Branch**, offering the property, mentioned here in below. Since you have failed to repay the loan amounts as agreed by you, your following mentioned account/s has/have been classified as Non Performing Assets [NPA] as on the date mentioned herein below. The individual notice has been also already sent to you demanding the due amount

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) Krishna Murthy.K. No. 95, Thunga Nagar, Appanappa Layout, Near Ramakrishna Asharam, Herohalli Bangalore-560091. **Co-Obligant/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Umesha.S,** No. 95, Thunga Nagar, Appanappa Layout, Near Ramakrishna Asharam, Herohalli Bangalore-560091.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility / Loan	Limits Sanctioned (Rs.)	Outstanding as on:31.03.2021
1	Term Loan 236330100000140	Rs 60,00,000/-	Rs.15,70,218/-

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, A/c. No. Term Loan 236330100000140 Rs.15,70,218/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Eighteetn Only) together with interest.

Classified as NPA as on. 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description of the Secured Assets: 1. Primary Security: Land And Building (Marriage Function Hall) Khatha No. 144/540/5277/128/1, Someshwargudi Colony, Magadi-Huliyurdurga Road, Magadi Town & Taluk, Ramanagar Dist. East: Someshwara Gudi Colony, West : K S Manjunath, North : Huliyur Durga Road, South : Gurumurthy Property, Lititude : 12.964536, Longitude: 77.2065781, Extent of Site 8963 Sq.ft.

2. Collateral Security: Land and Building at Site No.04, Khatha No. 3361/106-8, Opp Heritage Coventional Hall, Thunganagar Main Road, Herohalli Village, Yehwanthapur Hobli, Bangalore North-560091, Boundaries: East : Road, West : Site No. 46, North : Site No. 05, South : Southern side same property of Mrs. Lalitha Basavaraj Kongi, Longitude 77.38 E & Latitude 12.58 N Site and Land Extent of 2000 sq.ft and of building with GF 1684 sq.ft and FF 1684 sq ft.

2. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) M/s. Sri Annapoorneshwari Traders, Sole Proprietor : Smt. Hemavathi, No.72, Raghavendra Layout, Near Over Head Tank at Venkateshwara Temple, Vedyamanyanagar, Andrahalli, Bangalore North. **Co-Obligant/Mortgagor/ Guarantor: C.Rangaiah,** No.72, Raghavendra Layout, Near Over Head Tank at Venkateshwara Temple, Vedyamanyanagar, Andrahalli, Bangalore North.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility / Loan	Limits Sanctioned (Rs.)	Outstanding as on:31.03.2021
1	SOD 236331100000034	Rs 28,00,000/-	Rs.29,94,128/-

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, A/c. No. SOD 236331100000034, Rs.29,94,128/-(Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eight Only) together with interest.

Classified as NPA as on. 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description of the Secured Assets:

The Property is a residential building Site No. 22A, Sy.No. 42/1, Door No. # 22A, Sanjeevini Nagar, Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthapur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560091, Boundries : East : Road, West : Public Property, North : Site No. 23, South : Site No.22, Lat : 13.001038, Long : 77.498082

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 21.05.2021
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

TIRUPATI SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED
TIRUPATI (A.P.)
Email: tsccltirupati@gmail.com

e - TENDER NOTICE

Ref. Number: TSCCL/NIT/46, **Dated: 20-05-2021**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati invites online bids from interested and eligible bidders to participate for e-procurement vide IFB No.: 01 to 12/21-22/Smart City/TO, 01 to 03/TSCCL/Projects/ TO/2021-22 and 30 (02nd call)/20-21/Smart City/TO, Dated: 20-05-2021 of **16** works. Bidders are advised to visit e-procurement market place at https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in from **26.05.2021** to download the tender document and detailed instructions. For any assistance regarding participation in the e-tender contact, Superintending Engineer, e-mail: tsccltirupati@gmail.com The duly completed documents have to submit tender on online and that only be considered.

All other details including any extension, clarifications, amendments, corrigendum, addendum etc., will be uploaded on the above mentioned website only ond shall not be published in any other sources.

The TSCCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tender offers in part or full without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- P.S.Girisha, I.A.S., Managing Director,
Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati

STATE BANK OF INDIA

MHS ROAD KANAKAPURA BRANCH
Kanakapura 562117, Ramanagara District
Tel No. 080-27524484, Fax: 080-27522446, E-mail Id: sbi.40029@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]

A/C No: APML 64187635758/ DRS

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the **State Bank of India, MHS Road Kanakapura Branch, Kanakapura,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice dated 04.03.2021** calling upon the Borrower **Smt. Ashwini & Sri. Nagesh HP, #6226/5713, Basaveshwara Nagar, Ward No.18, Maharajakatte, Kanakapura Town 562117, Ramanagara Dist.,** to repay the amount as mentioned in the notice being **Rs.12,28,556.57 (Rupees Twelve Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Six and Fifty Seven Paise Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub Section 4 of Section 13 of Act, read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **21.05.2021.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general, is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India,** for an amount **Rs.12,52,554/- as on 03.05.2021 and interest from 04.05.2021** & charges thereon, till the date of realization of the dues. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of, time available to redeem the secured Assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Old Municipal Katha No.5026/4615/5026 and Present Municipal Katha No.6226/5713, situated at Ward No.18, Basaveshwara Nagar, Kanakapura Town, Ramanagara Dist., measuring East to West 40 feet & North to South 50 feet, standing in the name of Smt. Ashwini W/o Nagesh HP and bounded on :

East by : Site of V Swamy KN #6227/5714, **West by :** Katha No. 6225/5712 of Mahesh Kumar, **North by :** Municipal Road, **South by :** Site of Raju & Naganna.

Date : 21.05.2021
Place : Kanakapura

Sd/- Authorised Officer, STATE BANK OF INDIA
MHS Road Kanakapura Branch

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Ravi Kumar Mobile: 98865 50650, Office: 080 - 2286 6893

Government of Karnataka
(PWD DIVISION RAICHUR)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION
RAICHUR, Telephone No. : 08532-225778 & 234747

e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notification –(KW- 1 & 4)

1) Notification No & Date : PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2020-21/430 Date: 19-05-2021, 2) Name of work's : Raichur District Total 11 work's Raichur, Lingasugur Sindhanur and taluk Different types of roads, Building and other development works, 3) Amount of works : Min Rs. 1019624.67 Max Rs. 31248807.22, 4) EMD Amount : Min Rs. 53500.00 Max Rs. 53500.00, 5) Period (including Manson): Min Rs 2 (Two) Months Max Rs. 9 (Nine) Months, 6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender : 07/06/2021 16:00:00, 7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: 08/06/2021 16:30:00

For More details visit this website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIP/Raichur/44/MC&A/2021-22

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD Division, RAICHUR.

1st ANNIVERSARY
FOND REMEMBERANCE

VICE ADMIRAL
VERGHESE KOITHARA
12-7-1940 22-5-2020
IN OUR HEART
Indira Koithara
Relatives and Friends

EDUCATION. GOALS. AND GAME CHANGING DECISIONS.
edex
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IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING > WINSTON CHURCHILL

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU SATURDAY 22.05.2021

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

32,218 CASES REPORTED TODAY

28,869 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY 23,67,742

YESTERDAY 23,35,524

DEATHS

TODAY 353 | YESTERDAY 548

DISCHARGES

TODAY 52,581 | YESTERDAY 52,257

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY 5,14,238

YESTERDAY 5,34,954

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY 8.32%

YESTERDAY 8.24%

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY 1.02%

YESTERDAY 1.02%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY 77.25%

YESTERDAY 76.07%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until May 21, 2021, a total of 23,67,742 cases have been reported in 1 year and 71 days...

1,18,00,761 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	25,72,151
Health care workers 1st dose	7,02,623
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,63,961
Frontline workers 1st dose	5,19,505
Frontline workers 2nd dose	1,99,105
Age 18-45 1st dose	1,38,460
Above 45 1st dose	78,68,022
Above 45 2nd dose	19,09,085

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

9,591 BENGALURU URBAN

641 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalakote: 275	Chamarajanagar: 470	Dakshina Kannada: 864	Hassan: 2,071	Kolar: 479	Raichur: 558	Udupi: 854
Ballari: 1,650	Chikkaballapur: 845	Davanagere: 681	Haveri: 387	Koppala: 598	Ramanagara: 375	Uttara Kannada: 768
Belagavi: 1,138	Chikkamagaluru: 672	Dharwad: 809	Kalaburagi: 352	Mandya: 296	Shivamogga: 892	Vijayapura: 349
Bidar: 75	Chitradurga: 838	Gadag: 530	Kodagu: 512	Mysuru: 2,355	Tumakuru: 1,773	Yadgir: 520

COVID BYTES

Sixth Oxygen Express reaches State

BENGALURU : The sixth Oxygen Express on Friday entered the Inland Container Depot in Whitefield carrying 72.94 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen from Kanalus in Gujarat. With this, Karnataka has totally received 712.94 tonnes of oxygen by rai. Another Oxygen Express from Jharkhand will reach late on Friday with 120 tonnes of oxygen. An all women-crew will be taking over its reins from Bengaluru Division.

South Korean firm donates med supplies

BENGALURU: Seoul Semiconductors, a South Korean company, on Friday handed over medical supplies worth Rs 7.5 crore to the state government, under its CSR initiative. The list of medical supplies includes medical user masks, high-end gloves, PPE kits, mobile air purifiers, Violeds which sterilises airborne bacteria and viruses, among other things.

1,600 vials of anti-black fungus drug given to state, says DVS

Amphotericin, other meds can be indented online by pvt hosps through KPME portal: Govt

EXRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers D V Sadananda Gowda on Friday said that the Centre has been proactive in preparing to fight Mucormycosis, or black fungus, as cases are rising as a post-Covid-19 condition.

Speaking to reporters at an event organised by the BJP Bengaluru North unit, to disseminate information about the Centre's efforts in tackling Covid-19, Gowda said Karnataka's demands are being met on priority.

"Black fungus cases were first seen in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Karnataka has been reporting it only in the last three days and demand for medicines has gone up. Mylan Labs is importing Amphotericin-B that is used in black fungal infection treatment, while five others are manufacturing it in India. By May-end, we will have 1.63 lakh vials. So far, Karnataka has received 1,660 vials in batches of 600, 450, 300 and 310 vials each. We will provide more supplies on Saturday when 40,000 vials, imported by Mylan Labs, will arrive in India," the former chief minister said.

> Black fungus cases were first seen in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Karnataka has been reporting it only in the last three days and demand for medicines has gone up
>
> DV Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister

Backing his senior colleague, Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said that apart from Amphotericin-B, other medicines can also be used in the treatment of black fungus. "It isn't a new condition. There are many alternatives available but, there is a shortage only of Amphotericin-B. That is also being taken care of," he said.

Meanwhile, the Depuy Chief Minister, who is also in charge of medicine supplies related to Covid-19, said Amphotericin-B and other antifungal medicines can now be indented online by private hospitals through the KPME portal.

The process is intended to save time and keep track of its usage, he added.Gowda's statement on supplies to Karnataka came on the day the Union Government decided to ramp up supply and availability of Amphotericin-B.

"Five additional manufactures given license to manufacture the drug & production by existing five manufacturers being substantially ramped up. With accelerated efforts, 3,63,000 vials of Amphotericin-B will be imported in May 2021, resulting in total availability of 5,26752 vials and 3,15,000 vials will be imported in June 2021 making availability of 5,70,114 vials in June 2021 inclusive of domestic production," Sadananda Gowda posted on his Twitter handle sharing a press release from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

ADDING TO WOES

ICUs turning into 'info blackholes'

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

DEEPTHI Ravi (name changed) recently lost her mother to Covid-19. Two days later, her brother's oxygen saturation dropped and he had to be rushed to KIMS Hospital in Bengaluru. He was lucky to get an ICU bed under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike quota. But the family is now struggling to get in touch with him or get any update on his condition from the hospital.

Similarly, a security personnel's pregnant wife was admitted to Bowring Hospital with Covid-19. She delivered two days ago and was moved to the ICU in a critical condition. Since then, the family has neither heard from her nor from the hospital.

There are hundreds of such instances at both private and government hospitals where patients' families are spending tense moments as they fail to get any sort of information after their loved ones are shifted to an ICU.

"We received no communication about my mother, except that her saturation was improving, for four continuous days. During this time, we were busy performing the last rites of my father who had succumbed to Covid. My mother got in touch with us using the phone of another patient and said she needed water. We had to pull strings to communicate with the doctors and inform them that she wanted water. On the fifth day, we got a call saying that she too had died," said Soujanya Ramesh, who lost her mother at Victoria Hospital.

"My husband was hysterical and used to cry so loudly each time I called him. I could do nothing but just helplessly listen to him. I managed to get in touch with the doctor treating him through my friend and," said Christine Raj, who didn't want to name the hospital.

Hospitals, however, claim that they do not allow patients in critical condition to carry mobile phones into ICUs as it could cause infections.

"We communicate with the families. Due to an increase in cases, we do not communicate with them daily. But we call the families or attendants on alternate days. We also call the relatives if there is any emergency," said a doctor from Bowring Hospital.

Meanwhile, a doctor from a private hospital said that they communicate with the families each day either at 1.30 pm or by 8.30 pm

> We do not share numbers of duty doctors with the families. Instead, we have a common landline facility to communicate with the families
>
> Doctor of a private hospital in Bengaluru

Mucormycosis still a big concern, warn doctors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MOST people inhale these spores every day without being affected. But if the immune system is weak, infection is more likely because it is an opportunistic fungus.Doctors said the high-risk one is still mucormycosis or black fungus followed by aspergillosis. Then comes candidiasis, also known as thrust, caused by yeast -- which is another type of fungus, triggering white blisters in the mouth and private parts.

Dr Satyanarayana Mysore, Senior Pulmonologist, Manipal Hospitals, said, "White fungus belongs to the family of candida. It can affect lungs, nails, brain, skin and even genitals. But we have not seen such cases so far, and people need not panic."

Doctors said that more needs to be known on Bihar cases which presented Covid-like symptoms but did not test positive in RTPCR. Among the infected is a doctor and experts said that it could be due to hospital exposure.

Aspergillosis is not life-threatening as it doesn't spread as rapidly as mucormycosis. While treatment for aspergillosis is through Vovoriconazole medications, candidiasis can be treated with oral medicines like fluconazone.

"Superficial urinary tract infection and oral candidiasis require therapy for just 14 days. Patients may do well with oral medications. But invasive infections require IV therapy with drugs like Caspofungin, Anidulafungin and Micafungin, and the duration of treatment may be 14 days to six weeks," the doctors said.

Symptoms of Aspergellosis

- Fever, chest pain, cough,
- Coughing up blood
- Shortness of breath
- Other symptoms can develop if the infection spreads from the lungs to other parts of the body

Symptoms of Candidiasis

- Tiredness and fatigue
- Recurring genital or urinary tract infections
- Digestive issues
- Sinus Infections
- Skin and nail fungal Infections
- Joint pain

DESPERATE MEASURES

A Covid-19 patient, with an attendant carrying his oxygen cylinder, heads to board an ambulance in search of a hospital bed, in Bengaluru on Friday| VINOD KUMAR T

High discharges push recovery rate upwards

Bengaluru: Karnataka, for the fourth consecutive day, saw recoveries exceed fresh Covid-19 cases, setting the recovery rate galloping upwards after months of decline. The state reported 52,581 discharges on Friday as against 32,218 fresh cases, after recording the highest number of single-day discharges on May 18 with 58,395 as against 30,309 fresh cases. The following two days, it was 49,953 discharges as against 34,281 fresh cases, and 52,257 discharges as against 28,869 fresh cases. The recovery rate now stands at 77.25%, up from 73.68% on May 18. ENS

Doctors treat five-month-old baby with Covid-19, dengue

RANJANI MADHAVAN @ Bengaluru

A five-month-old girl child, who suffered Covid along with dengue co-infection, acute leukoencephalopathy (disease of white matter in the brain) and West syndrome (epileptic/infantile spasms, abnormal brain wave patterns), was successfully treated for Covid and dengue. Doctors from the Department of Paediatrics at the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute have now published a case study on this in the Journal of Tropical Paediatrics.

The infant was presented with fever, refusal of feeding, developing altered sensorium, decreased responsiveness and convulsions. On day 10, an RT-PCR test was conducted for Covid, which turned positive. Dengue and Covid co-infection surmounted a massive cytokine storm leading to Acute Leukoencephalopathy with Restricted Diffusion, the studym titled "Acute Leukoencephalopathy with Restricted Diffusion in an Infant with Severe Covid-19 and Dengue Co-infection Progressing to West Syndrome", said.

"This is a rare and evolving case, and we could not find any other literature on such a case. Dengue fever is endemic in India and symptoms overlap with that of Covid," said Dr Mallesh Kariyappa, Professor and Head, Department of Paediatrics, BMCRI, and one of the authors of the study.

The infant was treated for dengue and Covid. By day 15 of the illness, the baby's sensorium improved and she was started on nasogastric feeds. Following five-day therapy with intra-venous steroids, inflammatory markers registered a downward trend. On Day 16, a Covid test was done and it turned negative. The baby started taking direct breastfeeds on demand by Day 20 and was discharged.

"We found delayed development and loss of previously attained milestones. She developed repeated epileptic spasms (fits) in the months that followed and was diagnosed with West syndrome. We have to observe her during follow-ups, undertake stimulation and exercises through physiotherapy.," Dr Mallesh said.

HEALING TOUCH

Religious institutions will open doors to children orphaned by pandemic

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Bengaluru

AT a time when the Covid-19 pandemic is leaving many families shattered and in disarray, religious institutions are coming to the aid of children who have lost their parents to the disease.

Major institutions like the Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana mutt in Mandya district, the Siddaganga mutt in Tumkur, the Hiremath Samsthana in Bhalki and the Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeshwara mutt at Suttur near Mysuru have been getting queries and are preparing to take in children who have lost either one or both parents, as per laid-down procedures.

Prasannanatha Swamiji , General Secretary of Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana, told The New Indian Express that they are getting calls for admitting children who have lost their parents.

"We already have 3,000 children, including 800 girls, right from the age of five to college-going students. We provide them free food, lodging and boarding along with free education till they graduate" he said.

According to another official at the mutt, they have got at least 150 calls since Thursday related to children who have lost either one or both parents.

"We are also getting calls from people who are keen to adopt children. But this has to be done legally," he said.

Sri Hanumanthanatha of Yeleramupura Kunchitiga Mutt in Koratagere taluk has also offered to adopt orphaned children and provide free education up to Class 10.

The Hiremath Samsthana mutt at Bhalki in Bidar district too has opened its doors to such children. Mutt administrator Mohan Reddy said they are getting several calls, especially from Bidar, Kalaburgi, Raichur, Yadgir and even from Hubballi-Dharwad.

"So far, around 10 children are confirmed, but we are yet to take them in. We have to produce documents to the local child welfare committee. Once they approve, we will get these children to the mutt, keep them in isolation for 15 days and then admit them," he added.

LAST RITES ON FAMILY LAND

State govt lays out norms for registration of Covid victims' deaths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE State Government has issued guidelines for registration of deaths where burial/cremation of Covid-19 victims is done on land or farms owned by the victims' family.

The State Executive Committee, under the Disaster Management Act, had issued an order on April 24, permitting cremation or burial of dead Covid-19 victims on land or farm houses owned by family members of the deceased on their request. However, the High Court had sought clarification from the government about the cremation or burial at such places without obtaining a death certificate, after a counsel for the petitioner expressed concern, as there was no clarity in the order dated April 24.

N Manjunatha Prasad, Principal Secretary to the Revenue Department and Member Secretary, State Executive Committee, issued an order clarifying on this aspect and a copy of it was placed before the special division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Aravind Kumar, during the hearing PILs on Covid issues.

For Covid deaths at hospitals or healthcare facilities, it was stated in the order that the medical institution or healthcare facility concerned should issue Form No.4 as prescribed in the order, along with the death report in Form No.2 to the next of kin/authorised relative. The village accountant concerned should issue cremation certificate in the prescribed format. The family members should submit Form No.4, Form No.2 and the cremation certificate to the jurisdictional registrar's office for issuance of death certificate.

For Covid deaths at home, a private doctor is required to medically certify the cause of death and issue Form No.4A. The village accountant concerned should issue cremation certificate in the prescribed format. The family members should then submit Form No. 4A, Form No. 2 and the cremation certificate to the jurisdictional registrar's office to obtain a death certificate.

Unclaimed ashes to be immersed as per customs: Ashoka

BENGALURU: The ashes of over 1,000 Covid-19 victims are waiting to be immersed as many of the families are not coming forward to collect the urns from the cremation grounds for immersion, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said on Friday.

Speaking to media persons, the minister said they are trying to get in touch with the families, but their phone numbers are not reachable. Since not many are coming forward to collect the ashes due to various difficulties, the Revenue Department has decided to immerse the ashes as per customs, the minister said.

Ashoka said there is no shortage of oxygenated beds or oxygen concentrators in the state now and the system has been streamlined by involving private medical colleges and hospitals.

JDS leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Friday tweeted, "K Krishnan Kutty, an MLA of Kerala JDS, will represent Janata Dal_S in the Kerala cabinet." He said JDS firmly believes that Krishnan Kutty would give his best towards working for people's welfare

The megalithic site at Hire Benakal in Gangavati taluk of Koppal district | EXPRESS

Koppal's megalithic site in the race for UNESCO tag

AMIT S UPADHYE @Hubballi

THE megalithic site at Hire Benakal village of Gangavati taluk in Koppal is now among six heritage sites in the country that are contending for the Unesco Heritage Site tag. India had submitted 48 sites and among which six have been shortlisted. Unesco will decide on these sites in the upcoming meeting to be held in China in July 2021.

Local historians are keeping their fingers crossed as it has been a long-pending demand. It contains stone structures that were constructed several thousand years ago and it's the largest such site in the entire country. Of 12 types of Neolithic burial structures that are found in the country, eight are found in Hire Benakal.

Located in the hill ranges on the left bank of Tungabhadra, it is considered the laboratory for studying the life history of prehistoric communities. These communities lived in small huts, but gave immense importance to those who died. They made different kinds of burial structures and the most common was known as dolmens.

"Nowhere in India you find such a large number of dolmens in one site," said Sharanappa Kolkar, a historian from Gangavathi, who has worked on the site here and discovered several rock paintings.

"There are many sites here with such burial structures. But at Hire Benakal you can see around 75 dolmens, which is unique. The dolmens are from the Iron Age and structures are different at Hire Benakal," he explained.

CHENNAI FINALLY MARKS A DIP

City's test positivity rate drops to 19.4 per cent for the first time in three weeks

OMJASVIN MD @ Chennai

CHENNAI'S daily Covid test positivity rate (TPR) has dipped below 20 per cent for the first time in the last three weeks. On Friday, the city recorded a TPR of 19.4 per cent, a steep decline from 26 per cent on May 10, and 21.15 per cent on May 16. According to experts, a TPR of five or below indicates that the spread has been contained.

The number of daily positive cases in the city has also decreased from 7,149 on May 10 to 5,913 on Friday. Chennai at present has an active case rate of 10 per cent and the Royapuram zone alone has an active case rate lesser than 10 per cent. While Royapuram recorded 7 per cent, Thiruvottiyur and Manali tops the list with percentages of 16 and 15 respectively.

Officials of Chennai Corporation said that more number of oxygen beds are being readied at Covid Care Centres. "We have also enhanced our triage protocols. Patients now get screened at their doorsteps or through phone. Such measures ensure patients early access to treatment," an official said and added that since hospitals are the number one source of infection, the move to prevent entry of attendees inside the wards will help minimise the contagion.

Staffers at the Covid War Room track the numbers at DMS campus in Chennai on Friday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Corporation sources also said that as many as 7,647 patients have used the special ambulance services inaugurated last week to reach screening centre. The city's Covid case growth too is on the decline.

Hospital denied calling patient

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I booked the second dose at Rajalakshmi Hospital close to my house. I even got a message that my appointment has been confirmed for April 30, 2021," Prema explained to *TNIE*.

However, due to shortage, the hospital on April 30 informed her that she will have to wait for some more time. "I kept following up with the hospital. One day, I got a call from someone claiming to be from the hospital and sought my Aadhaar number and name. I gave the details as I was beyond the deadline for the next dose," she said.

The person who called for details, said he is collecting the details. When the vaccines were made available recently, she went to the hospital to take the jab. She was shocked to know that her Aadhaar number was blocked and the CoWin app stated she had already taken the second dose.

She complained to the hospital staff, but they said they hadn't caller her. She approached her friend, who started collecting details as to who took the shot assigned to Prema and found out that it had been taken by someone in Gujarat.

"How is this possible? I am now frantically trying to contact the health department. I have emailed and also tweeted about this," she said. Prema has received no communication so far.

Cops in dock as gold goes missing under their nose

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

IN a suspected case of fence eating the crop, the police are in the dock over a case of gold heist worth Rs 2.5 crore. It went allegedly missing from a car under the nose of men in khaki. It has come to light that some of the top police officials in Belagavi are allegedly behind 4.5 kg gold worth Rs 2.5 crore going missing from a car which was seized by Yamakanmardi policemen in January, a top police officer told *The New Indian Express* on the condition of anonymity.

Acting on the orders of higher ups, police had intercepted a car near Yamakanmardi in the outskirts on January 9 and had seized it. Gokak DySP Javed Inamdar and a PSI had stopped the car and a case was booked against the vehicle owner on suspicion of modifying the vehicle in violation of law. A son of a retired DySP from Hubli-Dharwad is said to be the mastermind, who got his hands on gold which was concealed in the same car.

When the car was released on orders of a local court, the vehicle owner who hails from Mangaluru drove away with the car in March, only to find the gold kept in the airbag missing. According to police, the owner of the car had designed the airbag so delicately that he had got a box fixed inside the airbag section which nobody could even suspect. However, the retired DySP's son had got a wind and tipped off the police about the gold being smuggled in the same car which was later intercepted and seized by Yamakanmardi police. The car was in the custody of Yamakanmardi police for several weeks before it was released by the court and handed back to the owner. The owner of the car had lodged a complaint with the police. To dig deep, the case has been handed over to CID.

CRIME PATROL

Bed-blocking scam: Court rejects bail plea

Bengaluru: A city court has rejected the anticipatory bail petition of an accused wanted in the bed-blocking scam on Thursday. While the police were on the lookout, Babu M, the key accused, contracted Covid and was admitted to a hospital. Police had posted two constables outside the ward so Babu applied for anticipatory bail before the court. The prosecution had objected to granting bail, stating he may commit a similar offence again and tamper with evidence if granted bail.

Doc held for selling Remdesivir in black

Bengaluru: KG Halli police on Friday arrested a doctor of a private clinic on charges of selling Remdesivir in the black. Dr Ajay Kumar Yadav (25), is a native of Uttar Pradesh. A special team raided Yadav's clinic and seized eight Remdesivir vials worth Rs 36,000 from him. He was selling each vial for Rs 11,000. According to the police, Yadav had collected the vials from two private hospitals and was giving a commission of Rs 2,000 to the owners of those hospitals for each vial sold. The police examined CCTV camera footage at the clinic and found that he had contacted more than 60 people.

Woman ends life after husband dies of Covid

Bengaluru: Depressed over her husband's death, a 28-year-old woman ended her life in Kanakapura Town of Ramanagara district on Thursday. The deceased, Nandini, worked as an assistant in Bescom divisional office in Kanakapura and it is said that she was three months pregnant. Kanakapura Town police said Nandini's husband Satish was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Mysuru when he succumbed to Covid on Monday.

EXPRESS READ

Six IPS officers transferred in K'taka

Bengaluru: The state government transferred six IPS officers on Thursday. IGP KV Sharath Chandra, who was IGP (Admin) in the police chief office, has been posted as IGP (Forest Cell). Ballari Range IGP M Nanjundaswami has been replaced by Manish Kharibkar. Northern Range IGP Raghavendra Suhasa HG, who was posted at IGP, Internal Security Division, has been replaced by IGP N Satheesh Kumar. Y S Ravi Kumar, who was DIG (Recruitment), is new Commissioner of Police of Kalaburagi.

Supreme Court grants bail to Andhra MP

Vijayawada: The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to rebel YSRC MP K Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju, who was arrested in a sedition case. A vacation bench of Justices Vineet Saran and BR Gavai, while referring to Raju's medical report received from the Army Hospital in Secunderabad, said it cannot be ruled out that the MP was 'ill-treated' in the custody. The apex court imposed several bail conditions on Raju, including that he should not give any interview to the media.

PARADIP PORT TRUST

CORRIGENDUM-1

Name of the Work : **"Replacement of Hydrant & Monitor Pipe line of the Fire fighting pipeline Network at North Oil Jetty".** Estimated Cost : ₹ **1,83,45,880.00.** Last date & time of submission of bid: **Dt. 03.06.2021 upto 17:15 Hrs.** Refer our website for details : **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

Executive Engineer (PED-I)

PPT/PR/34/21-22 Dt.21.05.2021

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Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Mandya Dist. Milk Producers Co-Op Members & Employees Welfare Trust, Gejjalagere-571428

No.M.M.U.K.Trust:37/Tender/2021-22 Dated: 21.05.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Mandya Dist. Milk Producers Co-Op Members & Employees Welfare Trust, Gejjalagere inviting Technical and commercial (Two covers system) tender for

Sl.No.	Description	Quantity
1.	Supply, Installation and commissioning of PSA 400LPM Medical Oxygen Generating plant on Turnkey Basis suitable for 100 Bedded at Government Hospital, Maddur, Mandya Dis, Karnataka State	01 Unit

Interested Tenderers to supply PSA 400LPM Medical Oxygen Generating plant on Turnkey Basis suitable for 100 Bedded can contact Manmul Trust office for applications and specification during office hours from 24.05.2021 to 29.05.2021, up to 1 pm. Last date and time for submission of application is on 29.05.2021 at 3.30pm. Suppliers/Tenderers can obtain Tender form on payment of Rs. 118 (including GST) at Manmul Trust office, Gejjalagere, Mandya. For more details Tenderers may contact Manager (Eng) 9513888256 or Manager (P & I) 9513888250 or Manager (Pur) 9513888247. Sd/-

Chief Executive Officer

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN NO.:U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.CD/KPCL/NB/AMC/162A Date: 13.05.2021

ABSTRACT SHORT-TERM NOTIFICATION

(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDERING SYSTEM)

Short-term tenders are invited through GOK e-Procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from Contractors having adequate financial resources, state of art technology, suitable construction equipment and technical manpower with sufficient past experience in executing similar work for the work of **Annual maintenance of KPCL New office Complex including maintenance of STP & WTP. Landscaping works etc., at KPCL Office Complex, Palace road, Bengaluru".** The brief bid notification containing the pre-qualifying criteria for the bidders, EMD, calendar of bid activities and other details can be accessed from e-procurement portal The last date of submission of bid: **27.05.2021.** Further details can be had from the Office of the **Chief Engineer, (Civil Designs), KPCL, No.3, Near Drug Controller Premises, Palace Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka. India. e-mail:cecdkpcl@karnataka.gov.in / ccedbng@gmail.com Website http://www.karnatakapower.com**

Government of Karanataka

Zilla Panchayat Bidar.

DIST HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE BIDAR.

Phone: 08482-233126/27. Fax: 08482-233127. E-mail: dhobidar@gmail.com

No: Sup/KKRDB/COVID/CR-11/2021-22. Date:20/05/2021.

-: SHORT TEARM TENDER NOTIFICATION :-

Short Term Tender is invited by District Health and Family Welfare Officer Bidar Under Hydrabad Karnataka Regional Development Board, COVID-19 and its Subordinate health institutions for the year 2021-22 for the Supply Installation and Commissioning of Various Medical Equipment for COVID-19 Pandemic. on Two cover system through e-procurement portal. EMD of the tender amount is 2.5%. each tender The e-procurement web site address is www.https://eproc.karnataka. gov.in can be seen on or after 20/05/2021. Last Date of Submission of Tender on 03/06/2021 up to 4:00 pm and Tender opening Date(Technical Bid) on 04/06/2021 at 4:30 pm. Venue of opening the Tender District Health and Family Welfare Office, Opp: Prayavi Hospital, Bidar. The details as follows.

1) Tender Details : Supply Installation and Commissioning of Various Medical Equipment for COVID-19 Pandemic, File Number : SUP/KKRDB/COVID/CR-08/2021-22, Amount : 13915000.00, 2) Tender Details : Supply Installation and Commissioning of Various Medical Equipment for COVID-19 Pandemic, File Number : SUP/KKRDB/COVID/CR-09/2021-22, Amount : 24832500.00, 3) Tender Details : Supply Installation and Commissioning of Various Medical Equipment for COVID-19 Pandemic, File Number : SUP/KKRDB/COVID/CR-10/2021-22, Amount : 22766000.00

The right of rejecting the Tender without assigning any reason vests with District Health and Family Welfare Officer Bidar.

More details can be obtained during the office hours.

DIP/Bidar/25/MC&A/2021-22 **Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer Bidar.**

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD

KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI

Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi - 585102, Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No.KWB/CEK/TEC/ AE-1/Jalbhavan Interior/142/2021-22 Date : 19-05-2021

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Detail of Work : Providing of Interior works and Furnitures for the proposed office building Jalbhavan at Rajapur, Kalaburagi **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2021-22 / BD / WORK_INDENT2967),** 2) Amount of Estimate : Rs.116.28 Lakhs (Excluding GST), 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: As per e-portal. EMD Nil, 5) Period of Completion : 06 Months (Including Monsoon), 5) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications: 07-06-2021 Upto 11:00 Hours, 6) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders : 19-06-2021 Up to 17:30 Hours, 7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : 22-06-2021 After 11:00 Hours, 8) Addl. information : Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi - 585102, Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 9) Address of E-portail: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/174/MC&A/2021-22

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

ಲೋ.ಇ.ಮಂ.ವಿ:ಟಿ.ಎನ್.ಡಿ(04ಇ)2021-22:ಎಇ-2 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.05.2021

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಮಯಾವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ

ದಿನಾಂಕ 24.04.2021 ರ ಹೊಸದಿಗಂತ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಲೋ.ಇ.ಮಂ.ವಿ:ಟಿ.ಎನ್.ಡಿ(04ಇ)2021-22:ಎಇ-2 :ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.05.2021 ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ **ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 5054-03-101-0-02-132 ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳಡಿ.**

1) ಬೆಳ್ತಂಗಡಿ ತಾಲೂಕು ತೋಟಾತ್ತಾಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಕುಂಟಾಡಿ ಎಂಬಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿರು ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (ಅಂ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ₹60.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ₹1.20 ಲಕ್ಷ).

2) ಬೆಳ್ತಂಗಡಿ ತಾಲೂಕು ಚಿಬಿದ್ರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪೊನ್ನೆದಡಿ ಎಂಬಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (ಅಂ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ₹60.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ₹1.20 ಲಕ್ಷ).

3) ಬೆಳ್ತಂಗಡಿ ತಾಲೂಕು ಚಿಬಿದ್ರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಮಾಕಳ ಎಂಬಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (ಅಂ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ₹100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ₹2.00 ಲಕ್ಷ)

ಈ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಮಯಾವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.**

ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.06.2021** ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ (16.00 ಗಂಟೆ) ಒಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. **ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ / ಕರೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ / ಟೆಂಡರು ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ / ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮೂಲಕ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರು ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು Download ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka under Taking)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, NRBC, DIVISION NO.5, RODALBANDA, TQ: LINGASUGUR, DIST : RAICHUR

No.KBJNL/NRBC/D-5/PB/TND/2021-22/114 Date:18-05-2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDER SYSTEM) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, NRBC Division No.5 Rodalabanda invites the percentage tenders in two cover system from the eligible Category I and above enrolled in KBJNL/KNNL/CNNL/VJNL Selected list for work mentioned in the table below. The tenderers at required to submit two separate covers, one captaining details of EMD and the particulars under instructions to the tenderers vide clause 1.1 and the other contraining financial details of tender as per claused 1.20.

(The blank tender documents can be otabined through the web site www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and to the submitted through electronic tender box), Indent No.21211 : ``Extension, Renovation and Modernization of Distributaries from 1 to 15 & Its Laterals Including Structures of Narayanpura Right Bank Canal System (Package-I)``

2) Amount put to tender : **Rs. 76000.00 Lakhs,** 3) Stipulated period of completion : 18 months (including watering period), 4) Class of eligible contractor : Registered contractor enrolled in Category-I List of KBJNL/KNNL/CNNL/VJNL

The calendar of events of tender process is as under

1)The tenderer can have access to the e-tender technical bid document in the website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on payment of e-cash towards transaction fee as per e-procurement : **From 20- 05- 2021 to 04-06-2021 up to 5.00 PM,** 2) Last date of receipt of quarries from the prospective bidders: **27-05-2021 up to 5.00 PM,** 3) Pre-Bid meeting at the office of the Chief Engineer , KBJNL, O&M Zone, Narayanpur-585219 Hunasagi i Taluk, Yadgir Dist : 28-05-2021 11.00 AM, 4) Last date for submission of completed tender documents 04-06-2021 - up to 5.00 PM, 5) Date of Opening of technical bid at O/o. Executive Engineer, KBJNL,NRBC Division No 5, Rodalbanda: 05-06-2021 -at 05.00 PM, 6) Date of Opening of financial bid at O/o. Executive Engineer, KBJNL,NRBC Division No 5, Rodalbanda: Will be intimated separately for Technically qualified bidders

Further information about tenders can be had from http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/e-portal/index or in the office of the undersigned during office hours on working days.

DIP/Raichur/48/MC&A/2021-22 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.5, Rodalbanda**

Tel-0663-2548268, E-mail id-serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR

O-251 No.1215 / Dated: 20.05.202

1st CORRIGENDUM TO BID IDENTIFICATION NO. PMGSY ONLINE RWCSBP-08/2021

Due to unavoidable circumstances following changes have been made in respect of the Bid ID No.PMGSY ONLINE RWCSBP-08/ 2021.

Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last date & time for seeking clarification	Last Date and time of submission of Original documents	Date & Time of opening of tender	
From	To			Technical Bid	Financial Bid
13/05/2021 From 11.00. A. M.	04/06/2021 Up to 05.00 P.M.	07/06/2021 Up to 1.00 P.M.	09/06/2021 By 1.00 PM	08.06.2021 At 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later
Instead of					
13/05/2021 From 11.00. A. M.	31.05.2021 up to 05.00 P.M	28/05/2021 up to 4.00 P.M	03/06/2021 By 5.00 PM	01/06/2021 At 11.00 A.M	will be intimated later

2. No bid Security is required, but "Bid Security Declaration" should be furnished by the Bidders as mentioned in DTCN. All other terms and condition remain unchanged.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur OIPR-25091/11/0012/2122

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B), NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR

E-mail seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com

Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 01/2021-22

No.____1055____/Date____20.05.2021____/

B-98: The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids Electrical Utility installation & shifting work which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in : **https://tendersorissa.gov.in.** The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **5.00 P.M. of 25.05.2021 to 5:00 P.M. of 31.05.2021.** The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11:30 A.M. of 01.06.2021 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.**

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR OIPR-34006/11/0001/2122

EDITORIAL

One might think that any plausible origin of a virus that has killed three million people would merit a serious investigation. Or that the wisdom of continuing gain-of-function research ... would be worth some probing

Nicholas Wade

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

NEED A FOOLPROOF FRAMEWORK FOR DIGITAL CURRENCIES

The latest bloodbath in bitcoin prices has put the spotlight back on cryptocurrencies. Digital currencies aren't legal tender, have no intrinsic value and strictly can't be categorised as currency, commodity or an equity. Far from being a substitute to fiat currencies, they aren't even a reliable investable asset class right now. Yet, their prominence positions them as the future of finance. There's both legal and regulatory uncertainty in most countries, but because they are not illegal, some allow their use in payments for goods and services, others as a store of value attaching it to commodities like gold and oil, whose attributes are comparable to money, and can be used as a medium of exchange. Globally, there are over 100 million users, of which an estimated 7-10 million are in India with total holdings worth between $1 billion to $1.5 billion.

Cryptocurrencies are secure and anonymous, which is why even central banks are forced to weigh in. As per the Bank of International Settlements, more than 50 global central banks have plans to launch a central bank-backed digital currency. In India, currently there's both legal and regulatory uncertainty, but trading isn't illegal. In 2018, the RBI had banned trading in cryptocurrencies, forbidding banks from dealing in transactions related to bitcoin and similar assets, but the Supreme Court quashed it in March 2020. Despite the RBI often voicing its apprehensions, it may roll out its own digital currency after all.

The government too is reportedly open to the idea and may soon introduce the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021. But what happens to existing private cryptocurrencies, which the proposed Bill intends to prohibit? Importantly, should the RBI or Sebi regulate cryptocurrencies? In the meantime, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has made it mandatory for companies to disclose trading and investments in digital currencies. It should use this data to set up a foolproof framework preventing their use in illegitimate activities, including the re-routing of black money. Taxation rules too need to be ironed out, besides, of course, the need to improve corporate governance.

AP POLICE VS MP: TESTING LIMITS OF THE LAW

The Covid pandemic has not deterred politicians from playing politics for a while. The case of rebel YSRC MP K Raghurama Krishnam Raju is yet another reminder of the same. The MP from Narasapuram was arrested last week by the Andhra Pradesh police for alleged hate speeches and booked under various sections including 124 A of the IPC. The real drama, though, began soon after with the MP accusing the cops of torturing him and pictures of his swollen feet going viral.

He was subsequently examined by a medical board constituted by the High Court and also at the Army Hospital in Secunderabad on the orders of the Supreme Court. Reports of both were at variance on a few points. While the former found no fresh injuries, the latter concluded that one of his toes had a fracture. Based on the available material, the Supreme Court has granted him bail, speculating that he may have been possibly ill-treated in custody. It is up to the courts to decide what had transpired. Nonetheless, we would like to underscore that if the allegation is found true, it would not only be a self-inflicted wound for the AP police and the government but also a gross abuse of state power. Invoking Section 124 A, a relic of the British Raj, is also unwarranted for abusing the government or the chief minister. The point here is not whether his language was fair or foul, but if it fits the definition of sedition. Since the Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar case in 1962, the Supreme Court has in different verdicts including the famous Shreya Singhal case veered around to the view that only "incitement to violence" can be punished in accordance with Article 19(2).

However, it is obvious that the MP's speeches are deplorable. This is not his first brush with the law either. He faces a CBI case for allegedly defrauding the SBI of ₹237 crore. For some, he may come across as a comic but his casteist comments could, it may be argued, potentially inflame passions. We do not want to be the judge and the jury but prima facie, it appears both sides have crossed a line.

Across the world, as expected, there has been criticism of governments in handling Covid. But oddly, or perhaps understandably, few questions are raised about its origin

COVID CULPABILITY: A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

BIBEK DEBROY

Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal

SOUMYADIP SINHA

Most people have read, or are familiar with, George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. It was published in 1945. But the Introduction/Preface wasn't published until much later, in 1972. "The sinister fact about literary censorship in England is that it is largely voluntary. Unpopular ideas can be silenced, and inconvenient facts kept dark, without the need for any official ban. ... At this moment what is demanded by the prevailing orthodoxy is an uncritical admiration of Soviet Russia. Everyone knows this, nearly everyone acts on it. Any serious criticism of the Soviet regime, any disclosure of facts which the Soviet Government would prefer to keep hidden, is next door to unprintable. ... It is important to distinguish between the kind of censorship that the English literary intelligentsia voluntarily impose upon themselves, and the censorship that can sometimes be enforced by pressure groups."

The Wuhan virus has ravaged the world, through mortality, morbidity and long-term effects we aren't even aware of today. Across the world, understandably, there has been criticism and questions have been raised about culpability of governments in handling the crisis. But oddly, or perhaps understandably, few questions are raised about the origin of the virus. There is a conspiracy of silence. I was reminded of Orwell's Introduction/Preface (with Soviet government replaced) when I read Nicholas Wade's long essay on the origins of Covid-19. It was first published in "Medium", but has been reprinted in several places since then. With personal lives devastated, I think the Wade arguments deserve better dissemination, so that some culpability is fixed.

Whether one uses the appellation "Wuhan" or not, that the virus originated in Wuhan is undeniable fact and cannot be wished away. Was it (a) nature; or (b) nurture? Robust causal evidence to establish either is missing. Wade teases through circumstantial evidence (which everyone should carefully read) to argue that the balance of probability is in favour of (b). Yet, most people seem to think it was (a), jumping from wildlife to humans via Wuhan's wet market. But there were cases in Wuhan with no link to the wet market and preceding December 2019. Nevertheless, as public, we believe what scientists and virologists tell us. This brings us to a *Lancet* piece in February 2020 and a *Nature Medicine* piece in March 2020. In both cases, there was no evidence to prove the virus originated in nature. Yet, both pieces were categorical that this hadn't been the case. To quote Sherlock Holmes, "Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts." That's precisely what these two pieces did. Without using standard filters required for a scientific proposition to be categorically established, they jumped the gun.

Skipping details of scientific evidence (one should read Wade), nature is implausible because—geography is wrong (Yunnan, where bats live, is 1,500 km away from Wuhan and bats don't fly that far); timing is wrong (the first cases occurred in September, before wet market cases of December 2019); climate is wrong (it is so cold in September in Hubei that bats hibernate); no intermediate host of transmission, or geographical process of transfer, has been found. "There are pigs on Pluto." This is a proposition that can't be falsified, at least, not yet. But most people and scientists and virologists will accept that the proposition is implausible and improbable, possible though it might be. In the same way, though we don't know for sure, the origin of this virus species through natural selection and transmission is implausible. Wuhan is a centre for research on coronaviruses through Wuhan Institute of Virology, and possibly other labs too. If that's the case, since Wuhan is the place where cases were detected, one should start with nurture in Wuhan, not nature in Yunnan.

> Whether one uses the appellation 'Wuhan' or not, that the virus originated in Wuhan is undeniable fact. Was it (a) nature; or (b) nurture? Robust causal evidence to establish either is missing. Nicholas Wade teases through circumstantial evidence to argue that the balance of probability is in favour of (b). Yet, there were articles earlier that called this a 'conspiracy theory' without any evidence

Why has there been no finger-pointing towards Wuhan research? There is a strong hypothesis and a weaker variant. In the strong hypothesis, research in Wuhan has been funded by individuals and organisations from the West, who authored pieces and tried to form public opinions without disclosing conflicts of interest. There was a perverse incentive, since were the nurture proposition to be true, they would have had to share part of the blame. We do know research in Wuhan Institute of Virology was funded from the West. We do know some of these were gain-of-function experiments, attempts to enhance capabilities of viruses. We do know this research involved bat coronaviruses, with samples collected from Yunnan. We do know the Wuhan Institute possessed capability to produce Covid-19, though we don't know it actually did. Given weak regulatory controls and safety measures in Wuhan Institute of Virology, or other labs there we don't know about, it was possible for Covid-19 to escape and cause the pandemic. I mentioned a strong hypothesis and a weaker variant. In the strong hypothesis, there are individuals and organisations who have actually funded research in Wuhan. In the weak hypothesis, virologists in general are reticent and non-transparent about the kind of research they are engaged in, one that is of dubious value and potentially, extremely dangerous.

There is a conspiracy, but not a global conspiracy to unleash the pandemic on humanity. The conspiracy is one of silence and reluctance to part with information, which is why I quoted George Orwell (Nicholas Wade uses the word *omerta*, with a phonetic resemblance to many Indian words that mean death). Do read the Wade essay. With lives ravaged, surely there should be culpability.

(Tweets @bibekdebroy)

THE PANDEMIC AND OUR FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

NANDITHA KRISHNA

Historian, environmentalist and writer based in Chennai

I recently interviewed a woman who had a 13-year-old daughter. "Who looks after your child when you go to work?" I asked. "I have married her off," was the answer. "Why?" "I can't leave a girl alone at home. I can't stay with her either. I have to work. We need the money," she said. I saw a woman loading rubbish in a truck along with her 10-year-old son. "Why is he working?" I asked. "He runs wild at home. The school is closed and I have no place to leave him," she replied. These incidents happened in Chennai. Thousands of girls have been married off in South India in 2020. Can you imagine what is happening in the North and in our villages?

Covid-19 has damaged the lives of children irreparably, reversing decades of progress in schooling and in preventing child marriage and child labour. It has also brought into focus the sharp contrast between the haves and have-nots. The haves, with laptops, iPads, tablets, smart phones and educated parents, received good online education in 2020. Those without electronic aids received nothing. We run free schools for very poor children. We gave them textbooks and notebooks and asked them to follow the government's Kalvi (Education) TV. Unfortunately, without educated parents, the children could not follow it and dropped out, thereby re-establishing the importance of the teacher.

Online education cannot substitute the school or teacher. Children learn more than the 3Rs in school. They learn to socialise, play games, celebrate national days and festivals together, and make friends, who are an essential part of their emotional lives.

At a time of crisis, girls are regarded as a liability and married off. They will never return to school. As the economy declines with increasing lockdowns and poverty, more boys will enter the labour market, notwithstanding laws against employing children below 14. They, too, will never return to school. Our national figures for literacy and education will dip sharply. Children at home means that women cannot go to work, resulting in economic disparity among the genders. Among the poorest in our society, the solution is to marry off girls and send boys to work.

Online education is not a permanent option. For one thing, it is expensive, requiring investment in high-priced laptops, Wi-Fi and e-platforms, smart phones to film each teacher, and scanners to scan pages for projection. All this, along with the monthly salaries of teachers, makes it expensive. Constant gazing at a laptop is bad for a child's eyes, however short the duration, and divorces the child from the teacher. Teachers are not trained in this pedagogy. Indian teachers stand, walk and use the blackboard. Sitting at home with a laptop is not conducive to effective teaching. It precludes sports and other physical activities, which are essential for a child's well-being. Inadequate exposure to sunlight leads to vitamin D deficiency. Indiscipline, addiction to online games and losing interest in studies are other problems. Lack of access to and unfamiliarity with electronic devices and the lack of educated home supervision in the absence of a teacher means the socio-economically disadvantaged fall far behind. Internet networks are not infallible. Online assessments are a farce. How do you assess primary school children who can barely write, while older children copy from textbooks to submit a perfect answer paper? All this and worse happened in 2020.

> At a time of crisis, girls are regarded as a liability and married off. As the economy declines with lockdowns, more boys will enter the labour market, notwithstanding laws against employing children below 14. In 2020, we forgot our children as we battled Covid. We are in danger of repeating that mistake in 2021

Standard 10 exams were cancelled, proving that they are a waste of time. The old system of 11 standards plus four years of college meant the children could choose their subjects in Class 9 in consultation with their teachers, instead of writing a nerve-wracking 10-subject exam in Standard 10. Why can our education experts not learn from their mistakes and, instead of burdening the children through their best years, cut it down to a single final exam in Class 11 or 12?

The year 2020 was disastrous as all schools remained shut. We cannot permit it to be repeated in 2021. I have a few ideas on how to avoid another bad year for our children.

Firstly, every teacher, parent and non-teaching school staff should be compulsorily vaccinated, breaking the queue, age bar and ignoring the CoWin app. Those who are not vaccinated or who refuse it should stay at home. Classes should be broken up into not more than 20 children per section, in two shifts if necessary (presuming that the average class number is 40), although schools with larger numbers must break them up further. Children should be given the influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, something that is recommended but rarely done in India. While these vaccines may not prevent Covid-19, they mitigate its ill-effects. Parents without private transport should move their children to a neighbourhood school that will not require travel by bus, a major source of infection. Every ward or panchayat has a large community hall that could be converted into a makeshift school. To avoid physical contact, physical education could be restricted to non-contact games like badminton, table tennis and stand-alone physical exercises. Finally, we must develop a Covid vaccine for children—from babies to age 18. I am sure many others have better ideas. Let each state government ask for ideas and implement the best.

Many schools in Covid-affected Europe have reopened with smaller classes and strict observance of protocols. We have to open our schools to prevent more girls being married off and boys sent to work. In 2020, we forgot our children as we battled the pandemic. We are in danger of repeating that mistake in 2021. Nobody is talking about our children.

(nankrishna18@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Crowding in vax centres

There was a huge crowd at the vaccination centre here when I went for a jab and Covid protocols were not being followed. The government must ensure the centres are not crowded. Otherwise this can lead to a rise in cases.
Swagatika Pradhan, Cuttack

Stop Central Vista project

The Central Vista project violates heritage conservation norms. The BJP-led Union government is wasting money and resources demolishing buildings during the pandemic.
S N Amrith, Puttur

CM's remarks unfounded

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has made an unfounded statement connecting a Covid variant with another nation. His inimical relationship with the Centre is one thing. But any action of his that can sour our ties with friendly countries is unpardonable.
V S Raman, Thanjavur

Augment vocational edu

This is with reference to *Development of Kerala: Agenda of new government* (May 19). Kudos to the author for his sincere effort in bringing a paradigm shift in the development model of Kerala. The need of the hour is not only digital skilling but also sub-sector-wise skilling so that we can generate largescale employment opportunities. For this to happen we should augment vocational education platforms.
S K Prakash, Chennai

No money for new agenda

It is clear that Kerala has not had adequate development both in the agriculture and industrial sectors. We do not expect any development in the near future too due to many internal factors. The state is spending a high percentage of its annual non-plan revenue to meet the expenditure for salary and statutory pension of government employees, and to meet interest expenditure. Meagre amount of annual non-plan revenue is available for basic infrastructure like roads, bridges, water supply, etc. Then how is the new agenda possible?
Sabu Thomas, Kochi

Prerogative of party

Since Shailaja Teacher efficiently managed the health portfolio, it is but natural for her well-wishers to want to see her again as a minister with the same portfolio. But deciding who should be inducted into the ministry is the prerogative of her party.
Aravindaksha Menon, Pattambi

Sidelining women leaders

Pinarayi Vijayan has successfully eliminated the only challenge for him in 2026 for the CM's post. The CPM has a history of men sidelining efficient and popular women leaders, with Gouri Amma and Susheela Gopalan having faced the same fate earlier.
Govind Nair, Thiruvananthapuram

Library will be restored

It was unfortunate that the prestigious Anna Centenary Library, built during the DMK regime in 2010, was neglected by the previous government due to political animosity. With the DMK having come back to power now, one can certainly look forward to the library soon getting upgraded in every aspect and restored to its original glory.
R Sivakumar, Chennai

Sans due respect

With many restrictions imposed around the disposal of bodies of Covid-19 victims including curtailing the time allotted to rituals, it seems that the mortal remains are deprived of their rights even after their final departure. This amounts to consigning the dead to the flames unhonoured and sans due respect.
H Narayanan, Bengaluru

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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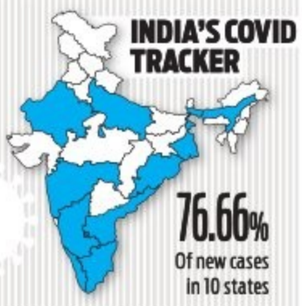
TWEETS OF THE DAY

K. C. Singh @ambkcsingh
Oh just realised. I listed in my morning tweets at least 4 options that PM had to handle #COVID19. I forgot his favourite: moistened eyes & lump in throat !

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Gandhiji believed in Rama Rajya Now we have D-rama Rajya

Ravi Shankar Prasad @rsprasad
COVID19 requires all of us to fight it out collectively by keeping aside political differences



INDIA'S COVID TRACKER

76.66% Of new cases in 10 states

Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam

35,579
Daily new cases in **Tamil Nadu**, highest in India. **Kerala** second with **30,491**

3,57,295
Recoveries in last 24 hours

3,57,295
Recoveries in last 24 hours

69.47% Of India's total active caseload in 8 states

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh

20.61 lakh
Tests done in last 24 hours in India

12.59%
Daily national positivity rate

5 SUCCESSIVE
days with daily fresh cases below 3 lakh

Govt to ramp up black fungus injection production

Centre says licence has been issued to five more companies, 5 lakh vials of amphotericin B will be available by month end, imports to follow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

AS states send out SOSs to procure crucial antifungal drug amphotericin B in the wake of rising mucormycosis cases, the Centre on Friday assured that over 5 lakh vials of this is going to be available by the end of this month through ramped up production and imports.

The Union government said it has issued licenses to five more companies to manufacture the medicine, considered the primary treatment for mucormycosis, and is in the process of importing 6.8 lakh vials in May and June. The import is part of efforts to ramp up supply and availability of the medicine, said the Union health ministry in a statement.

Doctors treat a patient infected with black fungus in Jabalpur on Friday | PTI

The government said production capacity of companies was extremely limited in April but following support from the Centre, these firms will cumulatively produce 1,63,752 vials of the drug by May-end. The production will be further ramped up to 2,55,114 vials in June.

As per unconfirmed reports, nearly 5,000 cases of the disease have been reported in India, while more than 125 people may have succumbed to it. Doctors said one patient needs 4-8 vials every day for this disease for about 15-30 days during the course of the treatment.

Unexpectedly high demand of amphotericin B in the last few weeks has meant that it is out of stock in most places, prompting the Union government to engage in its centralised, quota wise distribution.

The health ministry, meanwhile, in a letter to states, asked them to ensure infection prevention and control, as well as hygiene and sanitation in hospitals. Health secretary Rajesh Bhushan, in his letter to chief secretaries and administrators of all states and UTs, asked them to activate hospital infection control committees with the head of the institution or an administrator as the chairperson.

The letter also said hospitals should designate an infection prevention nodal officer, preferably a microbiologist or senior infection control nurse and prepare and implement the infection prevention control as per the National Guidelines for Infection and Control in Healthcare Facilities.

Addressing Varanasi docs & health workers, PM gets emotional

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

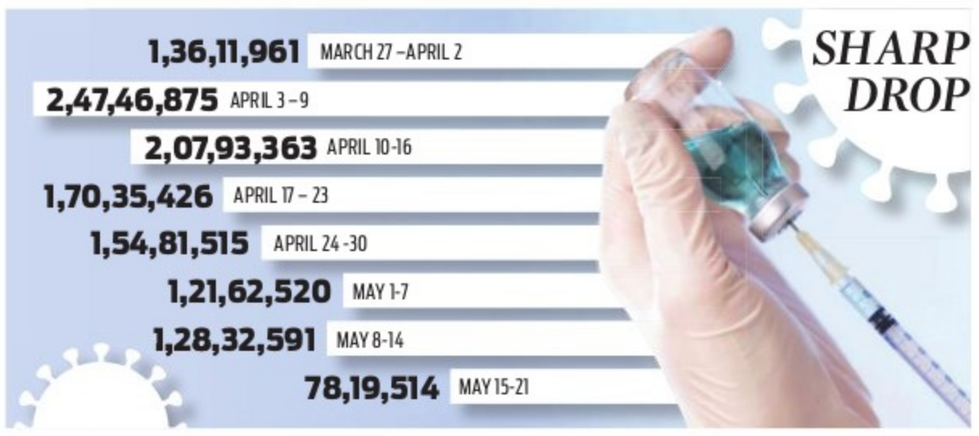
PM Narendra Modi on Friday called for treatment at the doorsteps of Covid-19 patients, while interacting with doctors and other frontline workers in his Parliamentary constituency of Varanasi. During the video conference, Modi appeared emotionally overwhelmed when paying homage to the pandemic's victims.

The PM said "*jahan bimar wahan upchar* (where there is illness, there should be treatment)", asking healthcare administrators to bring treatment to the doorsteps to reduce the burden on the health system. He called upon health workers to make the campaign comprehensive in rural areas.

In choked voice, the PM paid homage to the deceased. "In this second wave of the pandemic, many have lost their family members. We have lost many known people to the pandemic. I offer my homage."

The PM, who has been holding interactions with a cross-section of people from his constituency, hailed the response of medical professionals in treating Covid patients. He praised the inauguration of the Rajan Mishra Covid Hospital in "record time", saying that Varanasi caters to people from adjoining districts, in terms of healthcare facilities.

The PM expressed happiness that the integrated Covid command system in Varanasi worked well. He said Varanasi's example inspires the world. He also hailed the initiative of micro containment zones and appreciated the home delivery of medicines. "Bringing doctors, labs and e-marketing companies together to provide telemedicine facility named 'Kashi Kavach' is an innovative initiative," he said.



FALL IN VAX CURVE OVER LAST FEW WEEKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

THE number of Covid jabs administered in the country has been on a decline over the past few weeks, shows the weekly analysis of data from the CoWIN portal.

The total number of doses administered between April 3 and April 9 was 24.7 million. However, over a period of seven weeks, this has declined to 7.8 million, between May 15 and May 21, according to the data available. The figure includes both first and second doses of the vaccines.

Between April 10 and April 16, over 20 million doses were administered. This declined to 17 million over the next week from April 17 to April 23. Between April 24 and April 30, over 15.4 million doses were given. Over the next fortnight between May 1 to May 7, and May 8 to May 14, a total of 12.1 million and 12.8 million doses respectively were administered, a slight increase, which, however, was eclipsed by the just 7.8 million doses in the following week (May 15-21).

While May 15 saw 1.7 million vaccinations, over 1.5 million doses were administered on May 17. The subsequent days of May 18, May 19 and May 20 saw 1.3 million, 1.1 million, and 1.4 million doses, respectively.

The Centre opened up vaccinations for all adults beginning May 1. While India started inoculation of healthcare workers and frontline workers from January 16, vaccinations for those above the age group of 45 started from April 1. Meanwhile, states have flagged shortage of vaccines and their inability to vaccinate the 18-44 age group.

A state-wise break-up of vaccinations shows that Maharashtra has administered over 20 million doses, while Uttar Pradesh has given over 16 million jabs. Meanwhile, West Bengal has administered over 13 million vaccines and Rajasthan over 15 million doses. Karnataka has administered over 11 million jabs and Bihar over 9 million of these vaccines.

MHA advisory for protection of vulnerable people

SANA SHAKIL @New Delhi

TO ensure timely and accessible Covid-related assistance to the most vulnerable groups — children, elderly people, women, Dalits and tribals — the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written to the states asking them to review their facilities in the wake of the "new challenges" thrown up by the second wave of the pandemic.

In an advisory, the MHA has said that a review of the existing facilities was required to meet "new challenges" in the form of, for instance, the children who have been orphaned by the pandemic and the elderly who need regular assistance for their health and security.

One big challenge that the ministry is now trying to tackle is the possible rise in human trafficking. The MHA has asked the states to install robust institutional mechanism to counter human trafficking. It has also asked the states to deploy women help desks in police stations and anti-human trafficking units in districts.

In its advisory, the MHA also suggested that steps could be taken for sensitisation of police, coordination with agencies concerned and civil society organisations. The MHA advisory comes against the backdrop of reports of several children losing both the parents or the earning parent.

BJP objects after Twitter terms Patra's Congress toolkit remark 'manipulated'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

WITH Twitter flagging BJP spokeperson Sambit Patra's tweet about an alleged Congress toolkit as 'manipulated media', the Centre wrote a 'strong communication' to its global team objecting to the use of this tag on certain tweets by BJP politicians and asked the social media giant to remove the tags, according to a news agency quoting government sources.

Patra's tweet on May 18 with the hashtag #CongressToolkitExposed alleged that a Congress 'toolkit' discredited the government and PM Narendra Modi on handling the COVID crisis. Congress urged Twitter to remove the tweets by him and other BJP leaders. It also demanded that their accounts be permanently suspended for 'spreading misinformation and unrest in society'.

According to the news agency, the ministry has said Twitter unilaterally designated certain tweets as 'manipulated', pending investigation. "This action not only dilutes the credibility of Twitter but also puts question mark on status of Twitter as an intermediary". It added that the government has asked Twitter to remove the 'manipulated media' tags affixed 'prejudicially' to certain tweets in the 'interest of fairness and equity'.

Twitter declined to comment on the issue. According to 'synthetic and manipulated media policy', "You may not deceptively promote synthetic or manipulated media that are likely to cause harm." It may also label tweets with media that have been deceptively altered or fabricated as manipulated.

SNIPPETS

'Speaker sought new Parliament in 2012'

Union Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri on Friday said that the then Lok Sabha Speaker Meera Kumar in 2012 had written a letter on the need of a new Parliament building. He reiterated the new building will be ready on 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

IMA panel to probe death of doctors

In a first in the country, Bihar chapter of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Friday constituted a committee comprising Patna's prominent doctors to investigate the reasons behind the high mortality of doctors in Bihar during the second Covid wave.

MEA to meet UN chief during US visit next week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will be visiting the US next week where he will hold discussions with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The meeting between Blinken and Jaishankar would be a bilateral one and issues related to Covid-19 vaccine production, resilient supply chains and the Indo-Pacific are likely to come up for discussion.

According to sources, the External Affairs Minister and the UN Secretary-General will hold discussions with regard to India joining the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member.

"In New York, he is expected to meet UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. In Washington DC, the External Affairs Minister will hold discussions with his counterpart Secretary of State Antony Blinken. He will also be meeting cabinet members and senior officials of the Biden administration dealing with the bilateral relationship. External Affairs Minister will have two interactions with business forums on economic & Covid-related cooperation between India and the US," a statement from the MEA stated.

Jaishankar is also likely to hold discussions with the US administration to secure unused vaccines, particularly Astra Zeneca from the 80 million stockpile that the US has.

Funds for start-ups offering indigenous solutions to Covid crisis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

AS a rapid response to support startup-driven solutions for tackling the challenging second wave of Covid-19 in the country, the Central government has decided to provide financial backing to Indian startups and companies for developing new technologies and innovative products.

NIDHI4COVID2.0, the new initiative, will fund eligible India-registered startups and companies offering promising solutions in the thrust areas of oxygen innovation, portable solution, relevant medical accessories, diagnostic, informatics, or any other solution that addresses various challenges due to the impact of Covid-19.

The initiative is a special drive of the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India (GoI) for supporting indigenous solutions to combat the current health crisis.

Indigenous development and manufacturing of spare parts that are currently being imported for devices like oxygen concentrators would also be considered for Seed Support. Promising startups will be provided with financial and mentoring support for scaling up their products/technologies to the next level and speeding up their processes, helping them reach the product deployment stage as fast as possible.

This initiative has been built based on NSTEDB's past experience of implementing Centre for Augmenting WAR with Covid-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH).

"Supporting development of devices also brings with it opportunities in the development of several critical components that are being imported such as zeolite materials, gas sensors, etc which have wider applications," said Prof Ashutosh Sharma, secretary, DST.

9 JANUARY 1927-21 MAY 2021

Sunderlal Bahuguna: A Himalayan figure, sensitive writer and smiling inspirer

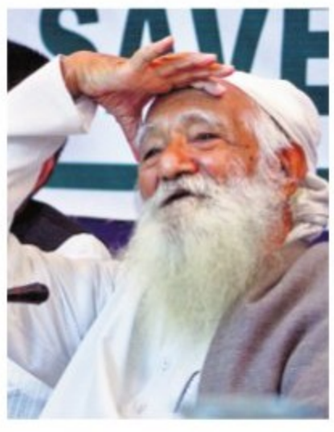
SHEKHAR PATHAK

THE departure of Sunderlal Bahuguna is the end of an epoch. With the Indian freedom struggle and Prajamandal Struggles in native states, this epoch and the life of Bahuguna started. Born in the family of a state official, he had all the possibilities for a bright future but opted for the arduous route.

In 1942, when he was a student in Lahore, he was inspired to participate in the freedom struggle. He went underground and reached Tehri, where Praja Mandal was trying to work. Entry of this organisation was always denied. Shridev Suman tried to convince state officials, but he was arrested and rearrested and finally died after 84 days of historic hunger strike.

Suman's death gave life to Praja Mandal and Tehri people under a feudal state. People united under the Mandal and a rainbow of leaders emerged. Bahuguna was among them. He had met Suman a few times. After the merger of Tehri state in Indian Inion in 1949, Bahuguna became the secretary of Tehri Congress. He was educated, a good looking orator and committed to Gandhian ideals. He had great future in politics.

But when his marriage with Vimala Nautiyal was initiated, her first argument was if he wanted to marry her, he had to leave politics and join social work. This was a beginning for both. In 1956 they thought about establishing Navjivan Ashram in a remote village. Education for women and dalits was one of the aims. After a few years, a hostel was built for the downtrodden in Tehri town and both were involved in this with many others. It was some kind of a renaissance in Tehri.



They worked for the entry of Dalits in temples. They brought their kids to schools. The next movement was against alcoholism. In 1969, prohibition was introduced in five districts. It continued for almost two decades. When the prohibition was lifted, a movement compelled the government to correct it.

The 1970 floods in Alaknanda prompted Sarvodaya workers to analyse it. They found that apart from landslides and tectonic activities, axing of forests was also responsible. This was the time when *angu* trees in Chamoli forests were allotted to a sport goods company. This gave rise to Chipko movement in Gopeswar. The word Chipko emerged in a meeting with villagers. In 1973, protests stopped the axe men and in the second half, the Phata protest also succeeded. For the first time, women participated in large numbers. On March 26, 1974, the women of Reni village wrote another chapter of Chipko, when 27 of them gave the movement a turning point. A Chipko committee was formed, many demands were accepted.

Bahuguna was among the few remaining true Gandhians. He was a true voluntary worker, sensitive writer, traveller and a smiling inspirer. He never compromised. He may have had weaknesses. But for the larger good, he stuck to his points. Uttarakhand has lost a father figure. We salute him and his great contributions.

(The author is an award winning environmentalist/historian who has written many books)

BLACK MARKETING: FIVE HELD

Five persons have been arrested for allegedly trying to black market an anti-fungal injection used in the treatment of mucormycosis in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city, police said on Friday

21 YEAR-OLD ARRESTED FOR HARASSING TEEN IN U.P.

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	37	26	Mumbai	31	28
Bhopal	38	24	Panaji	33	26
Jaipur	36	25	Patna	32	25
Amritsar	38	23	Lucknow	38	23
Chennai	34	27	Port Blair	30	24
Kolkata	37	28	Imphal	32	22
Srinagar	26	11	Chandigarh	37	20

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CASE

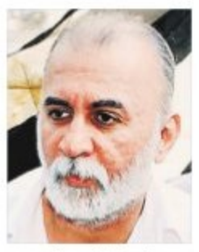
Tehelka founder Tejpal acquitted in assault case

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant vows to challenge the acquittal in high court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

TARUN Tejpal, the founder and former editor-in-chief of *Tehelka* weekly magazine has been acquitted of all charges in the sexual assault and rape case involving a junior colleague by the district and sessions court at Mapusa, Goa, on Friday.

Tejpal was accused of forcing himself on the woman, against her wishes, inside an elevator of the Grand Hyatt, Bambolim, Goa on November 7-8, 2013, during the news magazine's official event. The trial was held in-camera at Tejpal's instance. Additional Sessions Judge Kshama Joshi had reserved her verdict in the seven-year-old case, last month.


Tarun Tejpal

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday said the state government would challenge Tejpal's acquittal in the high court. "We won't tolerate injustice to be meted out to the women in Goa. We will soon challenge the district court's order before the high court," said Sawant.

He said he has personally discussed the issue with the public prosecutor and the investigating officer in the case.

The chief minister said there was enough evidence against the accused.

The Goa Police had registered an FIR against Tejpal in November 2013, following which he was arrested. The Goa crime branch had filed a chargesheet against Tejpal, who has been out on bail since May 2014. He faced trial under IPC sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement), 354 (assault or criminal force with intent to outrage a woman's modesty), 354-A (sexual harassment), 354-B (assault or use of criminal force on woman with intent to disrobe), 376(2)(f) (person in a position of authority over women, committing rape) and 376(29)(k) (rape by a person in a position of control). Special Public Prosecutor Francisco Tavora assisted by advocate Cyndiana D'Silva represented the Goa Police while Advocates Rajeev Gomes and Amir Khan represented Tejpal.

Calcutta HC orders house arrest of TMC MLAs

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

A two-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court on Friday ordered the house arrest of three Trinamool Congress MLAs, including two ministers, and a former mayor of Kolkata, who were arrested by the CBI in connection with the Narada sting operation case.

The order stipulated that their bail plea will be heard from Monday by a larger bench of the court.

The court passed the order after a difference of opinion split the two-member bench. While Justice Arijit Banerjee passed an order allowing interim bail, Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal disagreed and ordered house arrest.

The court, in its order, said the two ministers will only be allowed virtual access to officials from their respective departments during the period of house arrest. "We direct that the officials will not have any direct access to the accused. However, they are permitted to deal with the files sent to them online and hold meetings through video conferencing. A complete log of the video conferencing along with the details of the persons with whom it was held and the purpose, thereof, shall be maintained. The video conferencing facility shall not be used for any other purpose," the order says.

The court also ordered that a record be made of those visiting the houses of the accused during the period of house arrest. The jail authorities have been directed to install CCTVs at the entry points of the residences of the accused. In the petition, MLA Firhad Hakim's lawyer said he was playing a key role in Kolkata's fight against Covid-19, and considering the present situation, he be granted bail. The court turned down the prayer.

Trinamool Congress MLA Firhad Hakkim arrives at his residence on Friday | BIBHASH LODH

Mamata set to contest from Bhowanipur, MLA resigns

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kolkata

WEST Bengal agriculture minister Shovandeb Chattopadhyay, who was elected from Bhowanipur Assembly constituency in the recently-held elections, has resigned to pave the way for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to contest from the seat.

Mamata, who was defeated by BJP candidate and her once-trusted lieutenant Suvendhu Adhikari in Nandigram, must get elected within six months to continue her membership in the West Bengal Assembly.

"My party did not ask me to resign. I was under no pressure. I took the decision as a sincere member of the Trinamool Congress so that Mamata Banerjee can contest from Bhowanipore again. He role in state and national politics is more important now," said Chattopadhyay after tendering his resignation.

Chattopadhyay tendered his resignation to Assembly speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay in the presence of senior party leader and his ministerial colleague Partha Chatterjee.

There is speculation that Chattopadhyay may contest from Khardah Assembly constituency in North 24 Parganas, which was won by the Trinamool Congress candidate Kajal Sinha, who later died of Covid-19. Another possibility is that Chattopadhyay might be nominated to Rajya Sabha.

FIR against captain of sunken barge

POLICE have registered an FIR against the captain of barge P-305 and some other persons after it sank in the Arabian Sea five days ago during cyclone Tauktae, in which at least 49 of its personnel were killed, an official said on Friday.

The case was registered under section 304 (2) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 338 (causing grievous hurt to any person through rash or negligent act) and 34 (common intention) at the Yellow Gate police station here. Rakesh Ballav, the captain of the barge, and others have been named in the FIR, a Mumbai Police spokesperson said.

The case was registered on the basis of the complaint lodged by Rahman Hussain Shaikh, the chief engineer of the barge who was among the survivors in the incident, he said.

Of the 261 personnel who were on the barge that sank on Monday, 186 had been rescued till Thursday, officials had said.

Bodies of 49 persons have been recovered and the Navy and the Coast Guard have been carrying out a search for the 26 personnel missing from the barge and 11 from anchor boat Varaprada, they had said.

Three barges and an anchor handling boat deployed by private contractor Afcons for a project it was doing for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), and a drillship of a state-owned firm had lost anchors and drifted away .State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Friday announced cash relief for families of the deceased and survivors of the private contractor-operated barge that sunk in the Arabian Sea after being battered by a severe cyclone.

ONGC said an immediate relief of ₹1 lakh will be provided to the 186 survivors of the sunk barge and ₹2 lakh for the dead and missing persons' families.

The combined rescue and search efforts will be continued for a few more days, the ONGC said. *PTI*

ENCOUNTER

13 Maoists gunned down by police in Gadchiroli

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

POLICE in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district on Friday gunned down 13 Maoists, including seven women, during an operation in the Paydi-Kotmi forest.

Maharashtra's home minister Dilip Walse Patil said an encounter broke out when the police confronted Maoists in Paydi-Kotmi forest in Etapalli, where the insurgents had gathered for a meeting.

On receiving inputs that a group of Maoists had gathered in the area, a team of C-60 commandos, a special combat force of the district police was sent there. "C-60 squads successfully gunned down 13 Naxalites during the operation," Patil said.

"During this season, the collection of Tendu leaves is typically carried out in Gadchiroli area. The Naxalites collect large sums of ransom from this trade. The C-60 squad had received information about the meeting of the Naxalites in the forest, and accordingly, the team launched a planned search operation," the home minister said.

During the operation, led by the Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal, the police recovered AK-47s, Self-Loading Rifles, carbines, .303 rifles, 12-bore rifles and explosives.

Patil congratulated the police team for the succesful operation. He said he will discuss with Chief Minister the issue of increasing Naxalism on the Chhattisgarh border near Gadchiroli.

"I will soon initiate a discussion with the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh to explore various measures to prevent Naxal problems in the border areas," the minister said. Patil further told reporters that "Naxals are trying to weaken our democracy. I am proud that police officers are fighting them ably."

Stan Swamy tells HC he would rather die than stay in govt hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

RIGHTS activist and an accused in the Bhima Koregaon case Father Stan Swamy on Friday told the Bombay High Court that he did not wish to be admitted to a government hospital, urging the court to consider his request for interim bail.

As the activist refused hospitalisation, the court gave his lawyer Mihir Desai more time to speak to him. The case will now be heard on June 7. The 84-year-old tribal rights activist on Friday appeared from Taloja jail via video-conference and spoke to the High Court bench of justices SJ Kathawala and SP Tavade. Swamy is in custody in connection with the 2018 Bhima Koregaon case and suffers from Parkinson's disease.

During the hearing in the case on May 19, the court had directed prison authorities to take him to Sir JJ Hospital. The activist's report said that he suffered from extreme hearing loss in both ears, as well as tremors. It also said that he needed a walking stick or a wheelchair. However, his overall condition was said to be stable.

Swamy told the judges there had been "slow regression" in his body's functions in jail."Eight months ago, I would eat by myself, do some writing and walk... I could take a bath by myself, but all these are disappearing one after another," he said. "So Taloja Jail has brought me to a situation where I can neither write nor go for a walk by myself. Someone has to feed me," he said.

> **Have been in deteriorating condition for the last eight months in Taloja jail. I would rather be in Ranchi. I do not think any hospitalisation is going to help**
>
> Father Stan Swamy

EXPRESS READ

J P Nadda opens Covid-19 help desks

New Delhi: BJP national president J P Nadda on Friday inaugurated the Covid help desks established across the country by the party's Kisan Morcha. During the event, he hit back at opposition parties for their criticism of the Modi government's vaccination programme against Covid-19, saying they left no stone unturned to derail the exercise with comments questioning the safety of two Indian jabs."Congress leaders did everything they can to derail India's vaccination drive. And now they are singing a new tune: vaccination, vaccination, vaccination," Nadda said at the event.

IN THE GAP

A crowded marketplace in Ahmedabad after the authorities there decided to allow markets to function between 9 am and 3 pm amid the lockdown | PTI

Experts confounded by rise in black fungus cases

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"ALL of the factors that are being cited as reasons for rise in mucormycosis existed before March-April, so why suddenly is this fungal infection being reported now in Covid-19 patients across India?" he wonders.

He has more questions than answers but, in his understanding, so far, it could be something to do with the virulence of the Covid-19 virus that is making it easier for opportunistic pathogens like mucor to target weak patients.

A senior doctor at AIIMS, Delhi said, "we should try and probe why so many cases are happening. Unless we know the reason, we cannot possibly prevent the large outbreaks we are seeing," she said.

Doctors treat a patient infected with black fungus in Jabalpur | PTI

Unconfirmed data so far suggests that over 5,000 cases of this disease have been reported from several states, including about 200 in Delhi over the last few days, prompting the Centre on Wednesday to ask states to declare it as an epidemic, which will make it mandatory for hospitals to report all such cases.

States, on the other hand, are finding it difficult to manage the alarming rise in mucormycosis cases, especially as its first line of treatment - Amphotericin B shot - has gone out of stock in most places.

Savio meanwhile stressed that while there is no evidence so far that the use of industrial oxygen may be triggering it, there are already many contributing factors to the rise in mucormycosis.

"If identified early and started on appropriate treatment, surgical and medical, the outlook is not as bad as is being projected. However, we are already facing a shortage on the drug of choice needed for this treatment and we have started resorting to second line antifungal agents," he said.

13 accused in 1999 Bihar massacre acquitted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Patna

IN a major verdict, the Patna High Court on Friday acquitted 13 accused in Bihar's infamous Senari massacre, in which 34 members of an upper caste were killed by Maoist Communist Centre, an outlawed organisation, in 1999.

A division bench comprising Justices Ashwani Kumar Singh and Arvind Srivastava set aside the judgment of a lower court in acquitting the 13 The court has ordered that they be released immediately.

In 1999, extremists linked to the MCC executed 34 members of an upper caste in an open field in Senari.

On November 15, 2016, Jehanabad district court had sentenced 10 of the accused to death and three others to life imprisonment.

The state government had filed a death reference in the Patna HC seeking its confirmation of the death sentence by the lower court. Meanwhile, some of the convicts filed an appeal challenging the lower court's verdict.

The 13 acquitted are: Bacheesh Kumar Singh, Budhan Yadav, Gopal Saw, Butai Yadav, Satendra Das, Lalan Pasi, Dwarika Paswan, Kareem Paswan, Gorai Paswan, Uma Paswan, Mungeshwar Yadav, Vinay Paswan and Arvind Paswan.

72 unaccompanied children rescued

Around 150 volunteers (Suraksha Sathis) working under 'Surakshit-Safar', a joint initiative by the Railway Protection Force, Childline and the UNICEF, have rescued 72 unaccompanied children, including 14 girls from 11 railway stations in Bihar. Nipun Gupta, the communication specialist for UNICEF in Patna, said more than 150 youth-mobilisers, stationed at the 11 stations, traced out 72 unaccompanied children so far from trains. "From among the returning migrants, they have been tasked with identifying children and women vulnerable to being neglected and exploited," Gupta said.

RAJESH K THAKUR
Our correspondent in Bihar
rkthajipur@gmail.com

PATNA DIARY

Pvt hosps in Jharkhand told to have own oxygen plant

The Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department of the Bihar government has launched a first-of-its-kind campaign to sensitise people about the ways nature can help us fight deadly infections like Covid-19. The campaign, called #Naturecureyou, aims to spread awareness about indoor plants that give out oxygen as well as herbs and spices that have medicinal value. "Our goal is to help improve people's health by making them aware of indoor plants that give out oxygen and about other plants, herbs, and spices that have medicinal value, through #Naturecureyou campaign," said Dipak Kumar Singh, the Principal Secretary of the concerned department. The campaign educates people about various types of indoor plants that provide oxygen and create a healthy indoor atmosphere.

State's Covid app wins praise from Modi

The 'Home Isolation Tracking' (HIT) app, better known as the HIT app, developed by the Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation, has gotten praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he was informed about it by the district magistrate of Patna during the PM's recent interaction with DMs. Pratyay Amrit, the additional chief secretary in-charge of the state health department said the app, developed under the state health department guidelines is now being used in 38 districts of the state for monitoring Covid patients in home isolation

Covid testing vehicles deployed in villages

To ramp up Covid-19 testing in rural areas, Udita Singh, the district magistrate of Vaishali district has sent out eight vehicles, equipped with rapid antigen kits. Udita (pic) keeps monitoring their activities online from her office. She said the vehicles are well-equipped to conduct tests in the villages. Besides, she is also constantly monitoring the functioning of mobile Covid screening teams. "Since rainy season is coming up, we are making arrangements and reviewing them at every block to ensure that vaccination and Covid testing is done in flood-prone areas on a priority."

$37,579
donated by Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Friday to Red Cross' 'India Covid Relief Fund'

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	34	17	SNY	Los Angeles	21	12	SNY
Colombo	30	26	TDS	Melbourne	19	7	SNY
Dhaka	35	28	TDS	Moscow	21	11	SNY
Dubai	43	29	SNY	New York	32	21	LC
Houston	25	22	TDS	Singapore	30	27	TDS
Istanbul	22	13	LC	Toronto	26	18	LR
London	13	6	HR	Washington	34	21	LC

Israel, Hamas agree to ceasefire after days of deadly fighting

Truce follows pressure from US, Egypt and other int'l brokers to halt violence | Celebrations take place in Gaza Strip and West Bank following announcement

The Security Cabinet unanimously agreed to a mutual and unconditional cessation of hostilities. The political leadership emphasised that reality on the ground is what will determine if the campaign continues or not

Statement from Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's Office

I believe the Palestinians and Israelis equally deserve to live safely and securely and to enjoy equal measures of freedom, prosperity, and democracy

Joe Biden, US President

WHEN DID IT BEGIN?

Fighting began in Gaza on May 10 after weeks of rising Israeli-Palestinian tension in East Jerusalem that culminated in clashes at a holy site revered by both Muslims and Jews. Hamas began firing rockets after warning Israel to withdraw from the site, triggering retaliatory airstrikes. Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz said on Twitter that the Gaza offensive had yielded "unprecedented military gains". Israel carried out hundreds of air and several ground strikes in Gaza, while Palestinian militants have fired more than 4,000 rockets at central and southern Israel since last Monday. Israeli airstrikes killed 232 Palestinians, including 65 children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry there. At least 12 people in Israel, including two children, have been killed by Palestinian militant fire from Gaza, according to the IDF and Israel's emergency service.

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and the Palestinian militant group Hamas have agreed to a ceasefire, bringing to an end 11 days of bombardment, the heaviest flare-up since the 2014 Gaza War, that has left over 240 people dead and threatened to destabilise the volatile region.

The ceasefire, which followed mounting pressure from the US, Egypt and other international brokers to halt the violence, came into effect on Friday. The Israeli Security Cabinet voted to accept the ceasefire late Thursday as the Israeli south and Gaza remain inflamed.

However, the truce faced an early test when clashes broke out between Palestinian protesters and Israeli police following Friday prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a flashpoint holy site in Jerusalem that is sacred to Jews and Muslims. It was unclear what sparked the violence.

Police fired stun grenades and tear gas, and Palestinians hurled rocks after hundreds took part in a celebratory demonstration in which they waved Palestinian and Hamas flags and cheered the militant group. Protesters also clashed with Israeli troops in parts of the occupied West Bank, which has seen violent demonstrations in recent days linked to Jerusalem and Gaza.

Celebratory demonstrations took place in the Gaza Strip and West Bank as well. Fireworks, singing, and parades down the streets could be seen in uploaded videos on social media. Both Israel and Hamas have claimed victory in the conflict that has left over 240 people, including an Indian caregiver in Israel, dead.

The Security Cabinet unanimously agreed to a "mutual and unconditional" cessation of hostilities, according to a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Office.

"The political leadership emphasised that reality on the ground is what will determine if the campaign continues or not," the statement said.

Netanyahu did however inform the Israel Defence Forces to prepare for a scenario in which Hamas did not respond to Egypt's ceasefire offer.

Palestinians on Friday inspect the destroyed building in Gaza City that housed offices of AP and other media, after it was hit last week by Israeli airstrike | AP/PTI

UN chief welcomes truce

United Nations: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres welcomed the ceasefire between Gaza and Israel and stressed that Israeli and Palestinian leaders have a responsibility beyond the restoration of calm to start a "serious dialogue" to address the root causes of the conflict. "I welcome the ceasefire...I extend my deepest condolences to the victims of the violence and their loved ones," Guterres said as the ceasefire was announced. As of May 19, the conflict had claimed the lives of at least 208 Palestinians, including 60 children, and injured thousands more, Guterres had said adding that the continued indiscriminate firing of rockets by Hamas and other militant groups towards population centres in Israel, resulting in at least 12 fatalities and hundreds of injuries, was also unacceptable. Earlier in the day, in his address to the UN General Assembly meeting on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine, Guterres had expressed shock over the continued air and artillery bombardment by the Israeli Defence Forces in Gaza. PTI

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi thanked US President Joe Biden for his role in the success of the Egyptian brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. He added that both see the urgency in managing the conflict between the parties through diplomacy.

Biden hailed the ceasefire, saying both Palestinians and Israelis deserve to live safely.

"I believe the Palestinians and Israelis equally deserve to live safely and securely and to enjoy equal measures of freedom, prosperity, and democracy. My administration will continue our quiet, relentless diplomacy toward that end. I believe we have a genuine opportunity to make progress and I'm committed to working for it," Biden said on Thursday.

"We remain committed to working with the United Nations and other international stakeholders to provide rapid humanitarian assistance and to marshal international support for the people of Gaza and the Gazan reconstruction efforts," he said.

Biden told reporters that he spoke with Egyptian President Al-Sisi and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.

"In my conversation with Netanyahu, I commended him for the decision to bring the current hostilities to a close in less than 11 days. I also emphasised what I've said throughout this conflict — the US fully supports Israel's right to defend itself against indiscriminate rocket attacks from Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist groups that have taken the lives of innocent civilians in Israel," he said. *PTI*

Indonesia Muslims protest against Israel airstrikes

JAKARTA

MORE than a thousand Muslims rallied outside the US Embassy in Jakarta on Friday to denounce American support for Israel and demand an end to Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip.

The protesters marched from several mosques after Friday prayers to a major street outside the embassy, which was under heavy police guard.

They halted traffic along the way as they chanted 'Allahu Akbar,' or 'God is Great,' and 'Save Palestinians.'

Authorities with loudspeakers warned protesters to maintain social distancing during the demonstration, organised by the Islamic Student Association and several other groups, to prevent the spread of the Covid. More than 3,000 police, many wearing hazmat suits, were deployed to secure the embassy and the nearby presidential palace and UN mission.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, does not have formal diplomatic relations with Israel and there is no Israeli embassy in the country.

It has been a strong supporter of Palestinians, and President Joko Widodo has condemned the Israeli airstrikes.

Media reports said similar protests were held in at least 10 provincial capitals and cities across Indonesia. *AP*

A Muslim woman holds up a poster during a rally against Israel's attacks on Gaza, outside the US Embassy in Jakarta on Friday | AP/PTI

Biden signs bill to address hate crimes against Asian-Americans

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has signed a legislation to address the sudden increase in hate crime against Asian-Americans in the aftermath of Covid pandemic and expressed hope that such crimes would now be more accurately counted and reported so that it can be ended. "It will provide resources to create specialised hate crimes units that will also help states create hotlines for hate crimes at state and local levels that will be accessible for people with limited English proficiency. And it provides resources for training for state and local law enforcement to identify, investigate, and report these heinous crimes," Biden said after signing the legislation which has become a law after his assent.

Earlier this week, the House of Representatives passed the Senate-approved version of the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act with overwhelming bipartisan vote.

This bill was introduced by Senator Mazie Hirono and Representative Grace Meng in the House, and incorporated the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act. Biden also urged people to change their mind and heart.

Senator Hirono said after a year in which the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community experienced a horrifying rise in hate crimes and incidents driven by racist and inflammatory language during the pandemic, the bipartisan piece of legislation sends a clear and unmistakable message of solidarity to the community at this crucial moment and will help federal, state, and local governments confront anti-Asian hate across our country. *PTI*

President Joe Biden hands out a pen after signing the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act in the White House. (Clockwise from left) Senators Tammy Duckworth and Richard Blumenthal, Vice-President Kamala Harris, US representatives Judy Chu, Grace Meng and Don Beyer and Senator Mazie Hirono | AP/PTI

'CHINA DEVELOPING TIBETAN VILLAGES NEAR ARUNACHAL, BHUTAN & NEPAL'

BEIJING

CHINA is ramping up efforts to develop infrastructure in remote villages located along Tibet's border with India, Bhutan and Nepal, according to a white paper on Tibet issued by the Chinese government on Friday.

Developing the border areas and improving people's lives in Tibet has become important as the strategic Himalayan region shares 4,000-km long external border line, the document titled 'Tibet Since 1951: Liberation, Development and Prosperity' said.

The inhabitants of the contiguous areas experience harsh living and working conditions and high incidence of poverty. Governments at all levels have been making constant efforts to develop border areas and improve people's lives, it said.

The document said under the guidance of the ruling Communist Party, financial allocation has been increasing year by year for border development in Tibet. The development of China's border areas by establishing new villages with added emphasis on security has been accorded a priority since President Xi Jinping came to power in 2012. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) of which 1,126 km is located in Arunachal Pradesh. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet, which India has firmly rejected.

China also shares an over 477-km-long border with Bhutan which is yet to be delineated and 1,389 kms of border with Nepal. The border village development was highlighted when President Xi wrote a letter to a Tibetan herdsman family in Lhunze County close to Arunachal Pradesh in 2017 asking them to 'set down roots' to safeguard the 'Chinese territory' and focus on developing their hometown.

Since Xi came to power, border villages, townships and counties in Tibet have been granted more preferential state policies on infrastructure construction, covering water, electricity, roads, and housing, it said. In 2017, the Plan of Tibet Autonomous Region on the Construction of Villages of Moderate Prosperity in Border Areas (2017-2020) was released, designed to ensure better access to housing, water, electricity, roads, communications and the internet, to improve education, technology, culture, healthcare and social security in border villages, and boost industries in border areas. By the end of 2020, first-tier and second-tier border villages had access to highways, all border townships and towns were connected to the main power grid, and all border villages had access to postal services, mobile communications, and safe drinking water, it said.

The Tibet Autonomous Region also has built a comprehensive transport network composed of highways, railways, air routes and pipelines since its peaceful liberation in 1951 it said. *PTI*

EXPRESS READ

4th suspect arrested in Maldives bombing

Male: Maldives police have arrested the fourth and final suspect who was being sought for the bombing that severely wounded the country's former president Mohamed Nasheed on May 6. Police said on Twitter the 23-year-old man, who had been at large since the bombing, was arrested on Wednesday night. Authorities have not disclosed how the four suspects were linked to the bombing or if they had ties to extremist movements. AP

Princes William, Harry condemn BBC 'deceit' over Diana interview

LONDON

PRINCES William and Harry have condemned the 'deceit' that lay behind their late mother **Princess Diana**'s BBC interview in 1995 in which she first spoke about her troubled marriage to their father, Prince Charles.

In separate statements following an independent inquiry's conclusion that BBC "fell short of the high standards of integrity and transparency which are its hallmark", her sons blamed the controversial 1995 interview for her 'fear and paranoia' that damaged their parents' relationship.

William said his mother was failed not just by the "rogue reporter" but by BBC bosses "who looked the other way rather than asking the tough questions". "The findings are very concerning, that BBC employees lied and used fake documents to obtain the interview with my mother, made false claims about the royal family, which played on her fears and fuelled paranoia," William, the Duke of Cambridge, said in a video statement. "(The BBC) displayed woeful incompetence when investigating complaints about the programme, were evasive in their reporting to the media and covered up what they knew from their internal investigation. It is my view that the deceitful way in which the interview was obtained substantially influenced what my mother said," he said.

His younger brother, Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, blamed a toxic media culture for his mother's death. In his statement, Harry said the "ripple effect of a culture of exploitation and unethical practices" ultimately took his mother's life. *PTI*

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

IDFC FIRST Bank

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)**The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	10048609514 10048719968	Over Draft Facility	1. M/s DNI Home Theatre 2. Mr. Alex Clement Lewis 3. Mrs. Seema Anitha Pais	30.04.2021	INR 9,138,197.61/-	**All That Part and Parcel of** Property Situated at Flat No. G-06, Gm Reddy's Royale, Bearing Survey No. 74/3, Khata No. 1133/1120/1220/74/3 Situated At Bellandur Village, Varthurhobli, Bangalore-560103; admeasuring area 1640 Sq. Ft (Super Built Up Area), **Bounded As Following:** East: Property Belonging To Shamanna, West: Property Retained By Sri Seenappa B. G. , North: Outer Ring Road, South: Property Belonging To Sridharam.

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** . Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

Date : 22/05/2021
Place : Bangalore

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

On-line tenders are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty./Sets	EMD (₹)
1.	17211365 11.06.2021	(1) Set of seats and Berths including attendant berth for first AC Coaches (2) Set of seats and berths for LHB AC2T Coaches (3) Set of seats and berths for LHB SCN Coaches (4) Set of seats and berths for LHB AC3T Coaches (5) Set of seats for LHB GS Coaches (6) Set of seats and berths for LHB SLR HOG Coaches	(1) 21 Sets (2) 37 Sets (3) 71 Sets (4) 146 Sets (5) 68 Sets (6) 44 Sets	2000000/-
2.	14211089 17.06.2021	PU Paints for LHB Coaches	370 Sets	157090/-

1. For details and making On-line tenders, visit webiste: http://ireps.gov.in Drawings/ specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website: http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in. Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line biddings, can be obtained from licensed certifying agensices listed at http://www.cce.gov.in 2.Tenders will close at 14.25 hrs. on due date and will be opened at 14.30 hrs. Tenders Sr. No. 1 & 2 will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala. 3. For queries, contact IREPS helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23370897.

NOTE: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them.

PCMM

No. G-RCF/122-01/Stores/017/2021-22 Dated 21/05/2021

CLASSIFIEDS

OTHERS

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING
THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus. in the past. I have asked for many favors. This time. I ask you this very special favor (mention favor). Take it dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favor. not mine.
Amen. Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and favor will be granted. no matter how impossible. Never known to fail.

Thank you for all the work related problems resolved, seeking the blessings to continue for my family and me
Amen

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mrs Nagashree H J** D/o Jagannath H V, aged 33 years residing at No 5, Sri Gururaja Krupa, 1st Cross, 2nd main, Srinidhi layout, Konankunte, Bengaluru-560062 has changed my name to **Swapna** vide affidavit dated **20.05.2021** before Notary **G. Ganesha,** Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as **Swapna** for all purposes.

Market Watch
MARKET: 975.62 Sensex 50,540.48; 269.25 Nifty 15,175.30
GOLD: ₹2 24 carat (1 gm) ₹4,855; ₹2 22 carat (1 gm) ₹4,836
SILVER: ₹296 Per kg ₹71,245; ₹0.3 Per gm ₹71.25
FOREX: Dollar 72.83; Euro 88.67
newindianexpress.com

Crypto cos mull options as banks cut ties

Exchanges are now looking at alternative fund transfer mechanisms such as Peer2Peer transactions and UPI

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

INDIA'S crypto community is looking at new ways of enabling trading on exchanges since a majority of banks have turned their backs on dealing with virtual currencies. Top industry executives told this publication that crypto exchanges are now looking at alternative fund transfer systems such as Peer2 Peer transactions, UPI payments, and mobile wallets since traditional API banking routes are being blocked. Sources said that SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank have already severed ties with crypto exchanges in response to an informal guidance by the RBI, even as the finance ministry is still contemplating a ban on digital tokens. In addition to banks, payment processing companies including Paytm Payment Bank and Paypal are also not allowing users to sell or buy bitcoins from their platforms.

The isolated crypto exchanges are now contemplating broadening their payment infrastructure by either processing the payments directly, partnering with banks outside India, or acting as a third party guarantor in P2P transactions. In the absence of traditional means of money deposits or withdrawal through bank accounts, millions of users are now clueless over the fate of their asset holdings.

> **This is an industry-wide issue. All Indian crypto exchanges are facing a limitation in INR deposits due to the resistance we are facing from our banking partners**
>
> Nischal Shetty, CEO, WazirX

"This is an industry-wide issue. All Indian crypto exchanges are facing a limitation in INR deposits due to the resistance we are facing from our banking partners. Our users can still use the WazirX P2P to deposit INR as an alternate option. We're at the finishing stages in adding new banking partners and bringing in multiple INR deposit options for our users to deposit funds to their WazirX wallet. We understand that this has caused an inconvenience for our users and thank we want to them for their continued support," Nischal Shetty, CEO, WazirX & Member, Internet Mobile Association of India said.

India's top two crypto exchanges, WazirX and Zebpay, have seen 50-70 per cent month-on-month increase in user signups since March, 2020 (when the Bitcoin rally began with the onset of pandemic). WazirX onboarded 1 million users in April alone when Bitcoin levels peaked at $65,000. The company told this publication that since January 2021, there have been 4 million sign-ups on the platform. The trading volume from January-May 2021 crossed $15 billion.

Avinash Shekhar, Co-CEO of ZebPay & Member, IAMAI-BACC said that the SC decision of March 2020 made clear that banks have the right to do business with crypto firms."This is the existing law of the land. Investing in crypto always has been 100% legal," he said.

Bad Bank to face litmus test with 40 large NPA accounts

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE ambitious National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, or the Bad Bank project, will face its litmus test next month as 40 large non performing assets (NPAs) have been shortlisted for resolution when it becomes operational by July.

"The process of selection is on. Not all NPAs will be sent to NARCL. Even if a bad loan has slightest suspicion of fraud, it will be not referred to them. We expect it to be fully operational by July forst week," sources from the finance ministry's Department of Financial Services pointed out.

The official added that initially, it will be 40 accounts and that they were not including NPA accounts with even the slightest suspicion of fraud or malpractice.

Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had said that loans classified as fraud cannot be sold to NARCL. As per the annual report of the RBI, about 1.9 lakh crore of loans have been classified as fraud as of March 2020. Public Sector Banks accounted for 80 per cent of such bank frauds.

The Bad Bank was one of the bold steps of the government, announced in this year's budget. It was set to deal with large NPAs by taking over the bad assets of lenders and undertaking resolution proceedings.

The company will pick up those assets that are 100 per cent provided for by the lenders. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Union Budget 2021-22, had announced that the high level of provisioning by public sector banks of their stressed assets calls for measures to clean up the bank books.

"An Asset Reconstruction Company Limited and Asset Management Company would be set up to consolidate and take over the existing stressed debt," Sitharaman had said in the Budget speech. Last week the government appointed State Bank of India's Padmakumar M Nair named as CEO of proposed bad bank.

"There are lot of apprehensions which will be cleared. Take example of SBI, it has written off over ₹50,000 crore, in just four years. It has transferred ₹2,230 crore to Asset Restructuring company and has cases pending in NCLT worth ₹2 lakh crore. It will be able to take away stress from banks," the official added.

No fraud accounts included in project

- 40 assets identified do not include NPA accounts with even the slightest suspicion of fraud or malpractice, officials say
- Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had said that loans classified as fraud cannot be sold to NARC

SBI sanguine on asset quality after posting record profit in Q4

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

₹6,451 cr
Net profit for the quarter

₹81,327 cr
Total income for the period

THE country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday posted a blockbuster set of earnings as lower provisions and higher interest income aided bottomline growth. Net profit of the bank jumped 80 per cent year-on-year to a record ₹6,451 crore as bad loan provisions slid 16.6 per cent and net interest income clocked growth of 19 per cent.

Resolution of a large corporate loan account after JSW Steel made payment for the acquisition of Bhushan Power & Steel during the quarter also boosted the lender's earnings. Total income of the bank during the March quarter of the last financial year rose to ₹81,326.96 crore, from ₹76,027.51 crore in the same period of 2019-20. While most banks have reported strong numbers for the March-quarter on a low base and as lending picked up before the second Covid-19 wave, the fresh localised lockdowns have since fanned worries about an increase in bad loans. However, that doesn't seem to be the case for SBI.

"Going forward we do not see any concern on the asset quality front," said SBI chairman Dinesh Khara. He further said that he expects credit growth to be 10 per cent for the full year if the crisis is behind us by the close of this quarter.

During the quarter under review, retail loans remained sturdy rising 16.5 per cent year-on-year. SBI's corporate loan book fell 3.02 per cent on-year, excluding corporate bonds and commercial papers indicating that a revival of the investment cycle is still far as companies use existing idle capacity to meet demand.

The optimism regarding its asset quality comes from the fact that its Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio as a percentage of advances during the quarter came in at 4.98 per cent—the lowest in five years. GNPA fell six per cent to ₹1.26 lakh crore from ₹1.34 lakh crore, and net NPA decreased 14 per cent to ₹36,810 crore from ₹42,797 crore. Fresh slippages in Q4 were at ₹21,934 crore.

ASIANOMICS

HONG KONG
COUNTRY TO RESTRICT CRYPTO EXCHANGES

Cryptocurrency exchanges operating in Hong Kong will have to be licenced by the city's markets regulator and will only be allowed to provide services to professional investors, according to government proposals published on Friday. Dozens of cryptocurrency exchanges operate in Hong Kong, including some of the world's largest. The city currently has an opt in approach under which exchanges can apply to be licenced by markets watchdog the Securities and Futures Commission, but do not have to. Local financal technology and crypto industry associations have opposed regulation stopping exchanges from offering services to retail investors, warning this could drive exchanges out of Hong Kong and push investors onto unregulated venues. Cryptocurrencies have been on a roller-coaster ride this week.

MALAYSIA
SHARES HIT OVER 6-MONTH LOW

Malaysian shares fell to a more than six-month low on Friday as the country grappled with a record number of Covid-19 deaths and infections, while the ringgit also touched a 1-1.5 month low even as other regional currncies gained on a weaker dollar. The softer dollar trading around recent lows provided some respite to investors that have largely adopted a cautious view, on rising infections in the region and the eventual prospect that the US Fed tapers stimulus. Stocks in Kaula Kumpur were heading for their worst week since late January, as the country reported a record number of Covid-19 infections and deaths for a third day this week on Thursday. Indonesia's rupiah, which backs some of the emerging markets' highest-yielding debt, edged higher but the market were set for its worst week in three months.

JAPAN
MAY FORGO SUBMITTING EXTRA BUDGET

Japan's government is likely to forgo submitting an extra budget to the current parliament session running untill June 16, due to paucity of time, local newpapers reported. Some lawmakers have called for an extra budget to fund spending to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, as state of emergency curbs to prevent the spread of the virus heighten the risk of another recession. Finance Minister Taro Aso dismissed the need for additional spending now. Extending the parliamment session was considered difficult with a Tokyo metropolitan election looming on July, 4 and the Tokyo Olympic Games from July 23, the report added. For now, the Japanese government still has a 5 trillion yen ($46 billion) pool of funds already set aside to fund emergency spending to combat the devastation caused by Covid.

Air India passenger data leaked in major breach

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

INDIA'S national carrier Air India has confirmed that it has suffered a major cyber attack in which the personal details of millions of passengers were stolen, including sensitive information such as passport and credit card details.

This incident has affected around 4,500,000 data subjects around the world and involves personal data registered between August 26, 2011 and February 3, 2021, said Air India in a communique.

"This is to inform you that SITA PSS our data processor of the passenger service system (which is responsible for storing and processing of personal information of the passengers) had recently been subjected to a cybersecurity attack leading to personal data leak of certain passengers. This incident affected around 4,500,000 data subjects in the world," the national carrier said in a statement.

It added, "The breach involved personal data registered between 26th August 2011 and 3rd February 2021, with details that included name, date of birth, contact information, passport information, ticket information, Star Alliance and Air India frequent flyer data (but no passwords data were affected) as well as credit cards data." However, the airline said that CVV/CVC credit card data were not stored. It has also requested passengers to change passwords wherever applicable to ensure safety of their personal data.

Air India added that it had first received information regarding the data breach on February 25, and that the identity of the affected data subjects was received on March 25 and April 5. According to sources at Air India, the carrier has set up a call centre to help passengers who are impacted. Confirmation of the breach comes even as the national airline is going through the final stage of its divestment process.

BOURSES

Stock markets end strong week on a high as indices surge

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

BULLS made a strong comeback on Dalal Street as India's stock markets recorded their biggest weekly gain since Budget Week. Supported by falling Covid-19 case counts and positive global cues, the NSE Nifty gained 3.4 per cent during the week while the BSE Sensex was up by 4 per cent.

This surge was primarily led by Friday's stellar run when the Sensex gained nearly 1,000 points. The 30-share index soared 976 points or 1.97 per cent to close at 50,540, while the broader Nifty moved 269 points, 1.81 per cent, higher at 15,175.

Experts attributed Friday's surge to SBI's (State Bank of India) Q4FY21 earnings and RBI's decision to transfer its surplus of ₹99,122 crore to the Government for July 2020-March 2021, increasing speculation over the possibility of another stimulus dose to lift the economy.

"Domestic equities witnessed strong rebound after being lacklustre for two days following weak global market. The easing Covid concerns, appreciation in the rupee and recent positive global data helped the market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said. The Indian rupee has ended at the day's high at 72.83 per dollar. On the global front, risk of inflation in the US has reduced and unemployment rate continues to fall.

EXPRESS READ

US proposal threatens India's edge

New Delhi: Though India currently has a lowest corporate tax rate of 15% (for new manufacturing companies), the US treasury department has suggested 15% as a global minimum floor rate and wants to have discussion with other countries to push that rate higher. While it is still a long shot, any rate higher than 15% could take away the India's advantage.

Godrej Industries Q4 net loss at ₹92 cr

New Delhi: Godrej Industries Ltd on Friday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹92.22 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2021. The company had posted a net profit of ₹103.39 crore in the January-March period a year ago, Godrej Industries said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations stood at ₹2,610.69 crore during the quarter. It was ₹3,120.67 crore last year.

Gold bond issue price fixed at ₹4,842/gm

New Delhi: The issue price for the second tranche of the sovereign gold bond issue has been fixed at ₹4,842 per gram, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - Series II or the second tranche will be open for subscription from May 24 to 28. The government has decided to issue the bonds in six tranches from May 2021 to September 2021.

Gas output up 23% in April as RIL-BP fields begin ops

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

GOVERNMENT data released on Friday showed a 23 per cent year-on-year jump in India's production of natural gas for the month of April, with private sector output tripling after natural gas fields in the eastern offshore KG-D6 block owned by the Reliance-BP combine began operations.

India produced 2.65 billion cubic meters of natural gas in April, up from 2.16 bcm in the same month last year, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas data showed.

While state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) production was remained flat at 1.72 bcm for the month, private sector output tripled to 710.86 million standard cubic meters, the bulk of which came from the eastern offshor fields—some 409.12 mmcm. The ministry did not release individual field production numbers.

Reliance-BP, which started putting the second wave of gas discoveries in KG-D6 block to production in December last year, started output from Satellite fields last month.

While gas output rose sharply, India's crude oil production slipped two per cent to 2.49 million tonnes due to lower output on the part of state-owned ONGC and Oil India. Oil refineries, meanwhile, processed 35 per cent more crude at 19.88 million tonnes in April when compared to the year-ago period.

SC verdict paves the way for lenders to take promoters to insolvency court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While dismissing the petitions against the application of personal insolvency on personal guarantors, the SC held that the intent of the Centre is to implement the provisions of the IBC in a phased manner and that there was sufficient legislative guidance to distinguish and classify personal guarantors separately from other individuals.

Experts welcomed the judgment. Misha, Partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, said this would help settle jurisprudence on simultaneous initiation and proceeding with the insolvency resolution process against principal borrower and guarantors too.

A bunch of writ petitions were filed in different high courts against the insolvency provisions against personal guarantors by the likes of Anil Ambani, ex-promoter of Reliance Telecom, Sanjay Singal, ex-promoter of Bhushan Power and Steel, Venugopal Dhoot of Videocon, and Atul Punj, ex-promoter of Punj Lloyd. All these companies are facing IBC proceedings.

> **With this judgment, one can expect more debt realization for the lenders as personal guarantors would now want to settle with the lenders to avoid any unwarranted consequences**
>
> Sumit Batra, Corporate Lawyer

These petitioners had, in some stage or other, furnished personal guarantees to banks and financial institutions to avail loans for companies which they were associated with as directors, promoters or in some instances, as chairman or managing directors.

In some cases, like that of Anil Ambani and Venugopal Dhoot, banks had submitted personal insolvency petitions. In the case of Anil Ambani, the SC had stayed the personal insolvency proceedings initiated by SBI. Sumit Batra, a corporate lawyer, said the judgment paves the way for the lenders to initiate and pursue action against corporate debtors and personal guarantors simultaneously. "Earlier, with no remedy for the lenders... promoters had an easy escape route and, at times, used to act as a roadblock," he pointed out.

Delhi HC stays auction of gas from ONGC's KG Basin fields until June 4

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court has stayed the sale of natural gas from oil explorer and producer ONGC's Krishna Godavari Basin (KG Basin) block until June 4, acting on a petition filed by two power companies. A bench comprising Chief Justice D N PAtel and Justice Jyoti Singh noted that a prima facie case is made out in favour of the petitioners, and observed that the balance of convenience was in their favour too, since finalisation of bidding would cause them irreparable loss.

ONGC's Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), issued on April 12, had invited bids for 2.0 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD) of gas from KG Basin blocks in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

However, two GMR group power companies GMR Vemagiri Power Generation Ltd and GMR Rajamundhry Energy Ltd challenged the NIT however, and sought a stay on any new allocation or allotment of gas from ONGC's KG-basin block.

The companies argued that there shouldn't be further allocation since the Centre and ONGC failed to deliver the gas allocation already assured. They also claimed that pursuant to these assurances, they had already made investments to the tune of ₹1,000 crore.

They went on to note that the power sector was under stress and an e-auction would result in gas being supplied to other players at a higher price.

They have also challenged a March 21, 2016 notification of the petroleum ministry which provides for forward auction, contending that this would be discriminatory to them. The auction, they said, was in complete variance with the statutory framework for allocation of coal for coal based power projects. If the auction was not stayed, they would be compelled to bid in the e-auction to procure the gas already assured to them leading to irreparable loss and injury, they added.

After examining submitted documents, the court said "... a prima facie case is made out in favour of the petitioners". The auctions have been until the next hearing on June 4.

Petroleum ministry order challenged

The company have also challenged a March 21, 2016 notification of the petroleum ministry which provides for forward auction, contending that this would be discriminatory to them

Colombia removed as co-hosts of Copa America 2021

Colombia will no longer co-host this year's Copa America after street protests and social unrest swept the country. South American football's governing body CONMEBOL on Thursday rejected a plea by Colombia to postpone the June 13-July 10 tournament that it was to share with Argentina.

No window, but IPL looks to break open

BCCI exploring options to overcome challenges to finish suspended T20 league

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

IN CASE the BCCI manages to find a window to squeeze the suspended IPL 2021, the United Arab Emirates is being seen as the safest host and is the preferred option for the franchises. Although England is still being seen by few as another alternative, it is understood that the IPL's top officials want to host the tournament in the Gulf region. They are drawing up a plan which will be up for discussion at the special general meeting on May 29.

With the Future Tours Programme packed in the coming months, the BCCI is aware that it will be a difficult task to resume the IPL. However, it hasn't given up hope and is exploring the possibilities to slot the tournament. With the possibility of hosting the event after the T20 World Cup all but ruled out because of a crowded international calendar, the BCCI is now looking at September as the only possible window.

As things stand, the plan involves too many ifs and buts, with none in the BCCI certain whether any of the plans can actually go beyond paper. Unlike last year when the BCCI used the postponed T20 World Cup slot, there isn't any opening this year and it will need the help of other member boards to finish the IPL, which was suspended after 29 matches in the wake of several Covid-19 positive cases in multiple teams. The IPL's governing council led by chairman Brijesh Patel and COO Hemang Amin are understood to be devising the alternate plan. They are looking at a maximum of 18 days to complete the remaining 31 matches. But if takes into account the quarantine period and atleast three days of training before the start of the tournament, a minimum of 27 days will be required.

What is making it complicated is the Caribbean Premier League; it runs till September 19 and India's tour of England is not going to finish before September 14, unless there is a change in schedule. While the BCCI has established contact with their English counterparts about a tweak in schedule, Cricket West Indies hasn't and it is going ahead with its original schedule.

With the ICC board meeting scheduled for June 1, there are indications the BCCI will speak to the member boards and will present them the dates. But there are multiple challenges, which the BCCI has to tackle. In fact, the fate of the IPL depends on other member boards.

First and foremost, the BCCI will check the availability of the overseas players, following which it has to take a call on the host country. With T20 World Cup on the horizon, the BCCI officials admit teams like Australia, England and New Zealand may not release their players.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Missing Olympic qualifiers 'no big deal' for Ashwini

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

SPARE a thought for Ashwini Ponnappa. The shuttler is within reach of qualifying for the Tokyo Games in two events — mixed and women's doubles. But, with the World Badminton Federation (BWF) indefinitely postponing all events, Ponnappa has been left in the lurch. With no more events left inside the qualifying window, she knows she will miss the Olympics unless the BWF rejigs the qualifying format — the prospect of that happening is remote.

That being the case, the 31-year-old is more than entitled to feel aggrieved. However, she is more concerned about what her fellow Indians are going through at the moment. "As much as one might say it's unfair, everything that's happening with Covid is unfair," she tells this daily. "I'm just thankful that I got to play a few tournaments, while so many players haven't had any."

That's true. In fact, since the turn of the year there's a case for saying Ponnappa has been the form player from an Indian perspective. She has reached three semifinals and two quarterfinals. When the subject of the BWF cancelling or postponing events is put to her, she doesn't get bitter. What you get is a measured response from an athlete acknowledging the conditions of the outside world. "Five big tournaments cancelled. Except for Asia everyone else had their continental championship. Our Asian badminton championship was cancelled too, so out of seven, five were called off. As much as it was a blow, in the current times it doesn't seem like a big deal, especially with Covid being so bad in India and so many people having it so tough."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Emergency or not, Oly on: IOC vice president

ASSOCIATED PRESS @Tokyo

THE IOC vice president in charge of the postponed Tokyo Olympics said Friday the games would open in just over two months even if the city and other parts of Japan were under a state of emergency because of rising COVID-19 cases.

John Coates said this would be the case even if local medical experts advised against holding the Olympics. "The advice we have from the WHO (World Health Organization) and all other scientific and medial advice that we have is that ' all the measures we have outlined, all of those measures that we are undertaking are satisfactory and will ensure a safe and secure games in terms of health," Coates said. "And that's the case whether there is a state of emergency or not."

DEVI HOPEFUL OF CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH RANGERS

ASHIM SUNAM @Bengaluru

ACE woman footballer Bala Devi left the Indian shores in January 2020 after signing for Rangers FC in the Scottish Women's Premier League. That was also the last time the footballer spent time in her hometown in Manipur. Ever since she has been in regular touch with her parents over the phone from the foreign nation. The situation is much better in Scotland now, but it's India, which has been reeling under the second wave of the pandemic currently. The 31-year-old, however, is worried about her dad, who is a kidney patient.

"My father is a kidney patient. So he has to be taken care of. One cannot go to hospitals in the current situation. I have also asked them not to go out. However, it is a big relief that the situation in my village is not bad as it reported only a few cases," Devi said in a media interaction on Friday.

The league was called off last season due to the pandemic but she didn't let off-field situations impact her game much in Scotland. Earlier this month, Devi made the headlines after scoring a wonderful goal against Spartans FC. With the league concluding on June 6, it remains to be seen if the final fixture against Glasgow City will be her last as a Rangers player. Devi's 18-month contract, which was signed early last year, ends next month. "On June 6, the league is going to end. After that I will have discussions with Rangers," said Devi, who is hopeful of an extension.

One may not be aware as to where her future lies, but one thing is for certain that her stint abroad will help India when she dons the national colours again. Playing at a higher level, against quality players in Scotland should do a world of good. "Whatever things I have learned and seen here, I am surely going to share the experience with my India teammates. The situation in Indian football has also improved a lot, from fitness to confidence, it has increased," said Devi.

High expectations for Indian boxers in Dubai

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

A COMPETITIVE tournament is worth gold for Olympic-bound athletes in post-Covid world. Boxers, after a period of uncertainty, are geared up for Asian Championships. And the significance of the event is not lost out on them.

The Indian contingent comprising of 20 boxers, eight coaches, two physios, one doctor and a video analyst was due to leave for Dubai, the place where the continental event is taking place, in the wee hours on Saturday. Upon landing in the Gulf nation, they are expected to be subjected to coronavirus tests. The technical meeting and official draw is scheduled to take place on May 23 before the opening bouts a day later at the Le Meridien Hotel Grand Ballroom, which is near the Dubai International Airport.

Happy to see his wards get this golden opportunity, India men's high performance coach Santiago Nieva, under whom the boxers have improved leaps and bounds, remains optimistic as ever. "It is important, getting one final competition before the Olympics. Everywhere we go, we go to win. It goes without saying the present situation for everyone has been far from ideal, but I'm sure a lot of countries would say the same. We go with high expectations as always. We know that we have a good team and we also know the event will be tough with some of the world's best boxers motivated to show their worth before their Olympics," Nieva said.

In the previous edition in 2019, India had finished third with an impressive 13 medals (2G, 4S, 7B). A solid show by Amit Panghal (52 kg), one of the gold medallists in 2019, and the rest will be a timely one with Olympics on the horizon. "We'll get a clearer picture of where we stand before the Olympics. Boxers will be motivated to come out on the winning side," Nieva noted.

It's not like boxers have been competition-deprived since pandemic. In fact, they have had several international meets in Europe in the last few months or so. But it has to be noted that the quality of those competitions are nowhere close to the Asian Championships. Many Olympic-bound boxers from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan will be looking to assert their dominance. Several Indian boxers and coaches being infected with Covid had disturbed their flow in training but that has not diminished their ambitions. "We have had setbacks because of the coronavirus but all the boxers are in a positive frame of mind," CA Kuttappa, men's chief coach, said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Halep pulls out of French Open with injury

PARIS: Simona Halep, the 2018 French Open champion, announced Friday she has withdrawn from this year's tournament because she has failed to recover from a calf injury. "Unfortunately the tear in my left calf muscle needs more time to recover and the timeline is just too short," said Halep.

Atletico on cusp of La Liga glory

MADRID: Atletico Madrid are one match away from winning the La Liga title. If they beat Real Valladolid on Saturday, they will be crowned champions. But, Real Madrid are lurking, only two points behind, and ready to dip their neck over the line at the last moment. Real will have to beat Villarreal to have any chance.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH HASSAN
District Health & Family Welfare Office, Hassan
Email: dhohassan@gmail.com Ph: 08172-246832

Tender Notification

SUPPLY OF PROCUREMENT OF 32 SLICE CT SCAN MACNINE WITH ACCESSORIES FOR TALUK HEALTH OFFICE, HOLENARASIOPURA, HASSAN DISTRICT. As per Tender Specification Karnataka e-procurement 1)Tender Reference: SUP No.EST(4)GHHNPCT/14/2021-22 Dated:19.05.2021 2)Items tender as per double bid cover: SUPPLY OF PROCUREMENT OF 32 SLICE CT SCAN MACNINE WITH ACCESSORIES FOR TALUK HEALTH OFFICE, HOLENARA SIPURA, HASSAN DISTRICT. 3)Tender Processing Fee: As per e-procurement portal 4)Last date of submission of application through procurment: Date:27.05.2021 till 1.30 P.M. 5)Date of Opening of Tender cover: Date: 28.05.2021 at 2.00 P.M. at DHO Office, Hassan (Technical Bid) (If declared as holiday next working day) 6)EMD In Favour of: District Health & Family Welfare Office, Hassan. 7)EMD Amount NSIC Certified tenderer should send the certificate before last day of this office: Nil Declaration form should be upload. 8)Approximate Tender Amount: Rs.2.18 Lakh More Details, www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in The Tender accepting authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender without assigning any reasons there off. The details in this regard may be obtained from the office of the District health and Family welfare officer, hassan.

Sd/- District Health and
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/102/2020-21 Family Welfare Officer, Hassan

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South,
South Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross,
Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560 011.
No.EEP(S)/E-Procu/02/2021-22 Date: 21-05-2021

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP, invites tenders on BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Apprx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)
	Two Cover System	
1.	Concreting of hopcomes yard new Lalbagh in Ward No. 143.	75.00
	Single Cover System	
2.	Repair and interior work and other improvement works to the building in Ward No.177, Jayanagara constituency.	20.00

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre bid meeting will be held at the Office of the Executive Engineer Project (South) **02-06-2021 at 3:00 p.m.** (apply for Two cover system only) **(2)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders is: **09-06-2021 up to 4:00 p.m. (3)** Technical Bid opening date: **11-06-2021 at 4:30 p.m. (4)** Financial Bid opening date: **16-06-2021 at 4:00 p.m.** or After Technical bid approval. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, South Zone, BBMP.

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE
Chief Engineer, Transmission (North), Kozhikode

E-Tender ID_2021_KSEB_422824. Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 220KV, 2500Amps, 40KA-1 sec, Pantograph three phase electrically gang operated isolator without earth switch AT 220KV Substation, Area code, Malappuram.PAC-Rs 13358190 /- Last date 15.06.2021- 3pm.
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.kseb.in
Ref: PR /MC1 /E285/ E- Tender /2021

Member Secretary, Scrutiny & Accepting Committee, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kodagu District, Madikeri
Phone: 08272 220606 Website: www.kimskodagu.kar.nic.in
e-mail: directormckadagu@gmail.com
Ref:No.ME/2021-22/IND: Date: 20.05.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Member Secretary, Scrutiny & Accepting Committee, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kodagu District, Madikeri invites e-tender notification in two Tender document system from eligible Manufactures / Suppliers / Authorized Dealers through e-procurement portal Government of Karnataka, for the supply of Advanced Life Support Ambulance to DCHC & Teaching Hospital (Covid Hospital) KOIMS, Madikeri. The Tenderers can downlowad the documents from https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from **21.05.2021** at 10.00 AM, and last date for upload of tender is **28.05.2021**, at 5.00 PM and **EMD Exempted under G.O No. ಆಇ:675: ವೆಚ್ಚ-12/2020, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.12. 2020** for more information Please contact under signed or from website- https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Member Secretary,
Scrutiny & Accepting Committee,
Office of the Deputy Commissioner,
Kodagu District, Madikeri

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ - 562114
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 27931221, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ : 27931759.
ನಂ.: ನಕಾಹೊ/ಆ.ಶಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/18/2020-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20-05-2021

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆಗೆ ಮನೆ ಮನೆ ಕಸ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ 05 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಆಟೋ ಟಿಪ್ಪರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕೆಜಿ-2 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಡೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ತಯಾರಕರು / ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ / ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 080-27931221 ಯಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ
1.	Indent No. DMA/2020-21/IND11172- ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ನಗರ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಮನೆ ಮನೆ ಕಸ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ 05 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಆಟೋ ಟಿಪ್ಪರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವುದು.	33.88 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ : 03-06-2021 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ : 04-06-2021 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ. | ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ. | ಸಹಿ/- ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ. | ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ.
ವಾಪಾಸಂಇ/ಅಸಿಸ/ಬೆಂಗ್ರಾ/ಮನೆಹಾರ್/47/2021-22

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು
ಸಂ/ದಿಯುಡಿಸಿ(1)ಸಿಆರ್/17/2020-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-05-2021

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ - 2ನೇ ಕರೆ

ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ (ಮುನಿಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ)-3ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಡೂರು ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೆಟಿ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ. ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ವಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ 1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (DMA/2020-21/RD/WORK_INDENT114759/CALL-2) ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 95.92 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ 06 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 07-06-2021ರ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 09-06-2021ರ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 25-05-2021ರ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ & ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ತರೀಕೆರೆ
ದೂ.ಸಂ.: 9480860130, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eotarikere@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ತಾಪಂತ/ಸ್ವಭಾಮಿ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/2021-22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13-05-2021

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಜಿಪಂಚಿ/ಸ್ವ.ಭಾ.ಮಿ/SLRM/67/2018-19 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-01-2021, 15-02-2021 ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ತರೀಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 26 ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಘನ & ದ್ರವ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು 20 ಲೀಟರ್ ಅಳತೆಯ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಹಸಿರು & ಕೆಂಪು ಬಣ್ಣದ ಕಸದ ಬುಟ್ಟಿ (ಬಕೆಟ್‌ನ್ನು) ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಖರೀದಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (Common per Piece Tender) ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13-05-2021ರಿಂದ 27-05-2021ರೊಳಗೆ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in **Online** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ತರೀಕೆರೆ

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಮೈಸೂರು-ನಂಜನಗೂಡು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬಂಡಿಪಾಳ್ಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570 025
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: apmcmysore@rediffmail.com
apmcmys@gmail.com
ದೂ: 2482725, 2482389, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್:(0821)2482389
ಸಂ.ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ಮೈ)/189/2020-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.05.2021

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ KW-3 Clause 3(with latest amendments) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು -2020-21 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾ.ಕ್ರಿ.ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಸಗಟು ಹಣ್ಣುಗಳ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಉಪ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಯುಜಿಡಿ., ಡೆಕ್, ಚರಂಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ/ಡಾಂಬರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ . ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.7996782.17, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. (ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಡಿಕ್ಲರೇಷನ್ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು). **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ:** ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿ: 26.05.2021 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ, ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿ: 04.06.2021 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 07.06.2021 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ:10.06.2021 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಮೈಸೂರು | ಸಹಿ/- ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಮೈಸೂರು
DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/142/2021-22

TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited for Engaging the **426 No's Cleanliness Workers** for the period of One year by outsourcing in **Zone 1** Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation to a sum of **Rs. 1045 Lakhs** under Corporation General fund by the Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation **upto 3.00 P.M. on 21.06.2021** and the same will be opened by the Commissioner or his authorised person on the same day at **3.30 P.M.** in the presence of the contractors or their representatives present at that time. The tender documents can be downloaded from the website upto **2.00 P.M. on 20.06.2021.** Any further details will be heard from **Health Section of the Tiruppur Corporation office** in any of the working day if required. **Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation** reserves the rights to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. **E-Submission of Tender is also accepted.**
Web site address : https://tntenders.gov.in
Roc. No. : H1 / 2701 / 2021
Place : Tiruppur
Date : 19.05.2021
DIPR/ 1589 /TENDER/2021
Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation

The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583, Kollam, Kerala, India
Phone : +91-476- 2651215 to 2651217.
Fax : +91- 0476- 2680101, 2686721. CIN-U14109KL1972SGC002399
E-mail : contact@kmml.com, URL:www.kmml.com

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender Id	Items
1.	2021_KMML_423255_1	Annual Maintenance Contract for Civil works in Plant building and structures 2021-22
Chavara 21.05.2021		Sd/- HOU(T) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
2.	2021_KMML_423467_1	For the supply of 50 MT of Zirconium Ortho Sulphate
3.	2021_KMML_423401_1	For the supply of High Purity Magnesium Metal
Chavara 21.05.2021		Sd/- DGM (Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Ltd.,
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No. 1, T.R. Division, Munirabad. Phone: 08539-270306, E-mai: trdmrb@gmail.com
No.: EE/KNNL/TRD/TS/Works/Tender Notification/2021-22/205
Date: 17.05.2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through e-Procurement system) (Two Cover)

Tenders in Electronic mode on **"PERCENTAGE BASIS"** are invited on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No. 1, T.R. Division, Munirabad, Koppal District., in **Two cover system (cover I and cover II),** under H/A 4701 Head work Sub Division Munirabad for the work of "CONSTRUCTION OF PICK UP ACROSS NALA NEAR METHAGAL VILLAGE UNDER SCP OF KOPPAL CONSTITUENCY" **Rs. 199.85 Lakhs** from the registered in the KPWD Class-I and above / Category-III and above enrolled under KNNL Contractors. Last date for submission of tender documents upto **28.05.2021** at **4:30 P.M.** from web site **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** & Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I) on **29.05.2021** at **4:40 P.M.** The Pre bid meeting at Chief Engineer, KNNL, ICZ Munirabd office, is on **24.05.2021** at **11:00 A.M.** For more information at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. **08539-270306/ 08539-270026,** and at e-mail: **trdmrb@gmail.com.**

Sd/-,
Executive Engineer
KNNL, No. 1, T.R. Division,
Munirabad
DIPR/Koppal/78/Alaknanda/2021-22

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions. edex Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

For a few hours on Thursday near Barcelona 400 people said adios to pandemic distancing and partied, all in the name of science. The aim of the study was to test whether clubs can reopen without posing a threat of contagion

Masks were the only visible sign of the times as participants were given free reign to bar hop, dance and drink indoors and outdoors at cafes and clubs along a 400 metre stretch of street in the town of Sitges

IMF's $50 billion plan to vaccinate most of the world

Says 40% of the global population can get jabs by year-end, scaled up to 60% by 2022

COVID-19

WASHINGTON: The IMF on Friday proposed $50 billion plan to end the Covid-19 pandemic, with a target of vaccinating at least 40 percent of the world's population by the end of 2021.

"Our proposal sets targets, estimates financing requirements, and lays out pragmatic action," said Kristalina Georgieva, head of the International Monetary Fund, at the Global Health Summit held in Rome as part of the G20.

Looking ahead to a long-term sustainable global economic recovery, the plan then aims to have at least 60 percent of the world's population vaccinated by the end of 2022. The authors of the report point out that it is now recognized that there will be no real end to the economic crisis without an end to the health crisis.

It is therefore in the interest of all countries to put a definitive end to the pandemic, it argues. "For some time we have been warning of dangerous divergence of economic fortunes," said Georgieva. "It will only worsen as the gap widens between wealthy countries that have access to vaccines and poor countries that do not." At the end of April, less than two percent of the population of Africa had been vaccinated while more than 40 percent of the population in the United States and more than 20 percent in Europe had received at least one dose of vaccine against Covid, the IMF said. The fund is prioritizing closing the vaccine gap to put the world back on the path to growth. The goal is to "help bring the pandemic substantially under control everywhere for everyone's benefit," Georgieva said.

To get there, the IMF stressed the need for additional subsidies for the international Covax scheme, which was set up to try to prevent rich countries from hoarding vaccine, but is proving ineffective so far. Those subsidies would come through donations of surplus doses and ensuring the free cross-border flow of raw materials and vaccine. The estimate of $50 billion is a combination of at least $35 billion in subsidies, plus resources from governments and others, the IMF said.

Meanwhile, after more than a year of telework, the IMF will gradually shift back to having staff work in-person at its Washington headquarters as the United States brings its Covid-19 outbreak under control, the fund's spokesman said Thursday. "Like many others, after remote working for the past year, we will resume limited operations at our Washington with a phased return of staff to our buildings, beginning June 1," Gerry Rice told reporters.

SIDE-EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT RECYCLING PROCESS

Certain plastics like polyethylene terephthalate (PET) used for bottles are not recycled

Other plastics enter landfills because they are made up of a combination of different plastics that can't be easily split apart in a recycling plant

Plastics are usually recycled mechanically: they are sorted, cleaned, shredded, melted and remoulded

Each time plastic is remoulded, its quality degrades

When plastic is melted, the polymer chains are partially broken down, decreasing its tensile strength and viscosity, making it harder to process

The new, lower grade plastic often becomes unsuitable for use in food packaging as most plastic can be recycled a very limited number of times

EXFILE • TECHNOLOGY

RECYCLING PLASTIC TO MAKE CRUDE OIL

Rough estimates claim that only 9% of all plastic ever made has been recycled. The remainder lurks in soil, air and water, infiltrating our ecosystem, even finding their way into human placenta. It's this seepage that polymer chemistry, the domain credited with creating plastics, is attempting to throttle by turning them back into oil. How? Let's find out...

SCARY NUMBERS

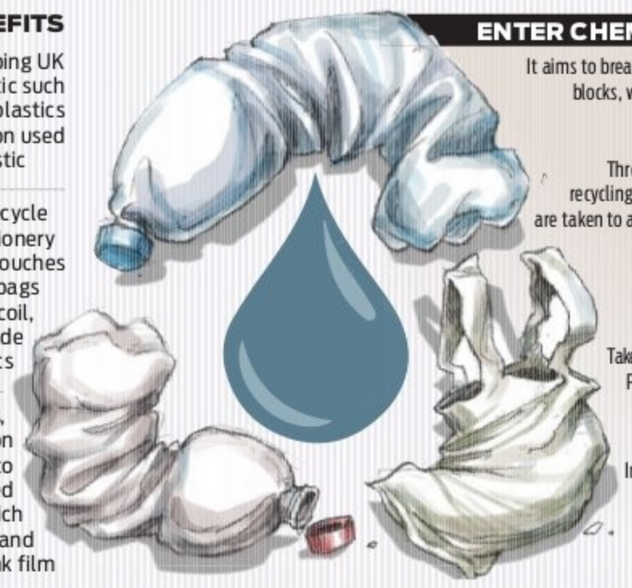
- 380 MN — Tonnes of plastic produced worldwide every year
- 16% — Plastic waste is recycled
- 40% — Plastics sent to landfills
- 25% — Plastic waste incinerated
- 19% — Waste dumped into waterbodies

MORE BENEFITS

Chemical recycling helping UK turn hard-to-recycle plastic such as films and laminated plastics into Plaxx, a hydrocarbon used to generate virgin plastic

Can transform hard-to-recycle waste, such as confectionery wrappers, dry pet food pouches and breakfast cereal bags into substances called tacoil, used to make food-grade plastics

A US company, Ineos, uses depolymerisation on a commercial scale to produce recycled polyethylene, which goes into carrier bags and shrink film



ENTER CHEMICAL RECYCLING

It aims to break plastic down into its building blocks, which can then be used as fuels

HOW'S IT DONE

Through a process called feedstock recycling or thermal conversion. Plastics are taken to a sorting facility, where they are sorted, washed, shredded and packed into a bale ready for transportation to the recycling centre

Taken to a pyrolysis centre for melting. Put into pyrolysis reactor where it is heated to extreme temperatures, turning plastic into a gas

Immediately cooled to condense into an oil-like liquid, and finally distilled into fractions that can be put to different purposes, much like crude oil

SWOT ANALYSIS

- Recycles the unrecyclable. Instead of a system where some plastics are rejected because they are the wrong colour or made of composites, chemical recycling recycles all (**S**)
- Requires large amount of energy (**W**)
- Requires heavy investment (**W**)
- Answer to ever-increasing plastic waste debate (**S**)
- Can help swing the balance towards greener future (**O**)
- Cost analysis pegs landfills as cheaper alternative (**T**)

OTHER METHODS

Hydrothermal technique used by a UK firm recycles plastics using water inside the reactor chamber to spread heat evenly throughout. Heated to extreme temperatures but pressurised to prevent evaporation, water becomes supercritical, meaning neither solid, liquid nor gas. This supercritical water boils the waste such that all elements are evenly heated all the way through

BENEFITS

- 99% — Conversion rate, meaning plastics can be infinitely recycled without degrading
- 40% — Renewable energy-driven after water enters the equation
- 80K — Tonnes of previously unrecyclable plastic can be recycled every year
- 1MN — Tonnes recycling capacity aimed by UK firm by 2025

Three times more people died than official count, says WHO

COVID

GENEVA: Up to three times more people have died due to the pandemic than indicated by the officially reported Covid deaths, the World Health Organization said Friday.

So far, more than 3.4 million deaths worldwide have officially been attributed to Covid-19 since the disease first surfaced in China in late 2019. But according to a global health statistics report from the WHO, far more people have died who would otherwise not have died had it not been for the pandemic, either due to Covid or because they could not get treatment for other ailments.

"Total deaths are at least two to three times higher than officially reported," Samira Asma, the WHO assistant director-general in charge of data, said. In 2020, the report found there had been at least three million excess deaths due directly or indirectly to Covid-19, while the official number of Covid deaths was 1.8 million. At a regional level, excess mortality estimates for the Americas stood at up to 1.46 million, and as much as 1.21 million in the European region in 2020, representing 60 and 50% more than the reported Covid deaths there. Asked how many excess deaths could be attributed to Covid, Asma said that "I think safely, about six to eight million deaths could be an estimate."

The WHO was working with countries "to understand the true human toll of the pandemic so we can be better prepared," she said. The discrepancy is due to a number of factors, including lagging reporting on Covid deaths in a number of countries and the fact that many people early on died without being tested.

Abandoned Internet Explorer to retire

TECH

SAN FRANCISCO: Microsoft said it is retiring Internet Explorer, the browser it created more than 25 years and which is now largely abandoned as people use competitors like Google's Chrome or Apple's Safari. "We are announcing that the future of Internet Explorer on Windows 10 is in Microsoft Edge," the company said in a blog post Wednesday, referring to its other browser. The browser shall cease to function from next year.

"Not only is Microsoft Edge a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience than Internet Explorer, but it is also able to address a key concern: compatibility for older, legacy websites and applications," Microsoft said.

However, Internet Explorer-based websites and applications will work with Edge at least until 2029. Chrome controls 65% of the market, said Statscounter. Safari is second with nearly a 19% market share as of April of this year. Firefox and Edge are in third and fourth place with 3.59% and 3.39% respectively.

NET GAIN

An inland fisherman casting his net in the Kadinamkulam backwaters in Thiruvananthapuram as demand for freshwater fish picks up in Kerala | BP DEEPU

Revolutionary Polish tech basks in sunlight

ENVIRONMENT

WROCLAW: A Polish company on Friday launched the world's first industrial production line of solar panels based on groundbreaking perovskite technology, which could revolutionise access to solar power. Named after the Baltic goddess of the sun, Saule Tech makes sheets of solar panels using a novel inkjet printing procedure invented by company founder Olga Malinkiewicz.

"We're scaling up, going from laboratory to production line," said Malinkiewicz, whose firm is based in the southern city of Wroclaw. The cutting-edge technology has been in the works for close to a decade but the plant opening comes at a fortuitous time, as the EU member is experiencing a solar boom.

Poland has long relied on coal for most of its energy needs but under an EU plan to cut emissions, its mines are set to shut by 2049. Photovoltaic panels coated with perovskite film are light, flexible and can easily be fixed to almost any surface to produce electricity even inside buildings.

Manufacturing costs are down thanks to the inkjet printing procedure for perovskites, which makes it possible to produce the panels under lower temperatures. Malinkiewicz developed the processing method in 2013 while still a PhD student at the University of Valencia in Spain.

Her discovery earned her an article in the journal Nature as well as an award from MIT and top spot in a competition organised by the European Commission. Now, "We're opening the world's first factory of perovskite solar cells," she told AFP. She said "demand already exceeds production capacity", which is estimated initially at an annual 40,000 square metres (430,550 square feet).

The first commercial orders have come in from the Internet of Things and construction sectors. The technology involved consists of printing layers of photovoltaic cells onto transparent plastic sheets.

The panels can be made very small or large, and can also be cut down in size or glued together to cover greater surface areas. "We use synthetic perovskites that can achieve considerable efficiency and power and which we don't have to extract from nature," she said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Legacy of nuke testing found

TECH

On July 16, 1945, the US Army tested the first nuclear bomb at Trinity Site in New Mexico unbeknownst they would leave behind something that would one day help scientific research. Decades later this hidden treasure has been uncovered, a 'quasicrystal, which is new form of matter that breaks the rules of classical crystalline materials. The reddish material was found in a mineral forged by extreme heat and pressure from the atomic bomb detonation, which fused sand into glass and included traces of the melted tower and wires. Scientists say the material will help them better understand illicit nuclear explosions and curb nuclear proliferation.

Smelly flower is a big draw

WACKY

Residents of a San Francisco Bay Area city flocked to an abandoned gas station to get a whiff of a corpse flower — so-called because of the stench it emits when it blooms — after its owner decided to share the rare plant with his neighbors. Solomon Leyva, a nursery owner in Alameda who deals in exceptionally rare plants, had been posting on social media about his amorphophallus titanum. When he saw a lot of interest in the giant blooming flower, he decided to wheel it Monday to the abandoned building, where a line of people stretched down the block for most of the day, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

SMALL POX

Digitised records show vax hesitancy in 18th century US

HISTORY

BOSTON : A highly contagious disease originating far from America's shores triggers deadly outbreaks that spread rapidly, infecting the masses. Shots are available, but a divided public agonizes over getting jabbed. Sound familiar?

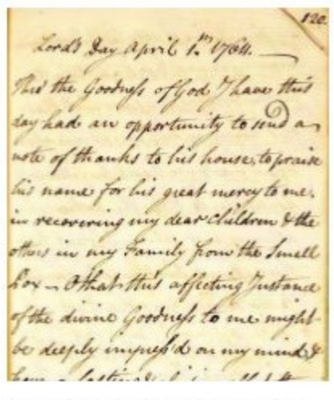
Newly digitized records — including a minister's diary scanned and posted online by Boston's Congregational Library and Archives — are shedding fresh light on devastating outbreaks of smallpox that hit the city in the 1700s. And three centuries later, the parallels with the coronavirus pandemic are uncanny.

"How little we've changed," said CLA archivist Zachary Bodnar, who led the digitization effort, working closely with the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

"The fact that we're finding these similarities in the records of our past is a very interesting parallel," Bodnar said in an interview. "Sometimes the more we learn, the more we're still the same, I guess."

Smallpox was eradicated, but not before it sickened and killed millions worldwide. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say the last natural outbreak of smallpox in the United States occurred in 1949. In 1980, the World Health Organization's decision-making arm declared it eradicated, and no cases of naturally occurring smallpox have been reported since.

But in April 1721, after an English ship, the HMS Seahorse, brought it to Boston, it was a clear and present danger. By winter of 1722, it would infect more than half of the city's population of 11,000 and kill 850. Much earlier outbreaks, also imported from Europe, killed Native Americans indiscriminately in the 1600s. Now, digitized church records are helping to round out the picture of how the colonists coped during a pestilence.



A page from the diary of a priest from 18th century, detailing the inoculation of his family| AP

The world's first proper vaccination didn't occur until the end of that century, when an English doctor named Edward Jenner inoculated an 8-year-old boy against smallpox in 1796. Before then, doctors used inoculation, or variolation, introducing a trace amount of the virus into the skin. Yet just as with Covid-19 vaccines, some took a skeptical view of inoculations in the 18th century, digitized documents show.

School of 'fossil fish' found

NATURE

Several shark hunters stumbled upon a previously unknown population of coelacanths, a 420-million-year-old 'fossil fish' that was once thought to be extinct. The discovery was made in the southwestern part of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. The remarkable find, first outlined by Mongabay News, stems from the result that the shark hunters were using gillnets looking for the sharks, only to turn up the ancient fish. Coelacanths have four fins that act like limbs and were once given the moniker 'Old Fourlegs.' Coelacanths were initially thought to be extinct until 1938 when it was rediscovered off the South African coast. They can reach up to 200 pounds in mass and live for 48 years according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and are known for their bizarre appearance. Coelacanths were once thought to have become extinct 66 million years ago during the Cretaceous–Paleogene extinction event.

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22.05.2021
SATURDAY

DAY'S DIARY

The last ride

The last true Orient Express travelled from Paris to Istanbul on May 22, 1977, drawing the curtain on almost a century of ferrying passengers

THE ROUTE

The train journey took travellers on the fabled route from Western Europe to the shores of the Bosphorus in Turkey that included stopovers in Munich and Vienna

WAR HALTS LUXURY

Called Simplon-Orient-Express, the luxury train began in 1883. Its service was stopped by World War I and II but resumed eventually

A FAREWELL

The 18 first-class passengers leaned from windows and gulped champagne as the train creaked to a stop. They stepped down, held hands and sang *Auld Lang Syne*

World premiere for Neeli Hakki

PG 4

WATCH LIST

ALMA MATTERS: INSIDE THE IIT DREAM (HINDI/ENGLISH)

Streaming on : Netflix

Take a sneak peak into one of the toughest missions - cracking a seat at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). The documentary gives you a glimpse into the astronomical dream of every aspiring student who wants to enter the most prestigious institutions of India where leaders are made. The three-part documentary series will also give insights on how students navigate through one of the toughest academic challenges and the buzzing lifestyle around an IITian.

MARE OF EASTTOWN (ENGLISH)

Streaming on : Disney Hotstar

The seven-part series is about a small town detective who decides to investigate a local murder case in Pennsylvanya as life around her begins to crumble. As she begins her investigation into the crime, the local community begins to doubt her detective skills. Some of her past tragedies including losing her son, a troubled divorce begins to haunt her as she treads a tough road ahead.

Cast: Kate Winslet, Brad Ingelsby, Gavin O'Connor

99 SONGS (HINDI)

Streaming on : Netflix

If you are looking for a musical treat on OTT this weekend, 99 songs should be on your watchlist. Dive into AR Rahman's magical musical score for the film which takes you through the pursuit of art and gives you a visual treat. The story revolves around Jay, a young and aspiring musical artiste who is obsessed with music. As he takes on the challenge of composing songs to become a successful artiste, the young lad has to strike a fine balance between personal and professional objectives.

Cast: Ehan Bhat, Edilsy Vargas, Lisa Ray

ARMY OF THE DEAD (ENGLISH)

Streaming on : Netflix

An action packed and fast paced film that is sure to get you on the edge of your seat. A group of mercenaries are asked to venture into the territory of zombies which give a glimpse of a post-apocalyptic world. The movie also touches upon issues of American capitalism, refugee crisis and other related themes which makes for a typical Zack Snyder film.

Cast: Dave Bautista, Ella Purnell, Omari Hardwick

Adline Castelino, the third runner-up at the Miss Universe pageant, returned home in style, sporting a purple brocade pantsuit designed by a city-based label

MAKING A STATEMENT

Adline Castelino

MONIKA MONALISA

WAVING the Indian tricolour high and with pride, Adline Castelino, the third runner-up at the 69th edition of the Miss Universe pageant, returned to India on May 19, wearing a stunning outfit designed right here in Bengaluru.

Even if the crown was not to be - it went to Miss Mexico - Castelino came very close to it, winning the title Miss Diva Universe at the pageant in Florida, the United States, on Sunday. For the homecoming, which was low-key due to the Covid situation in India, the 22-year-old model donned a shimmery jacquard pantsuit designed by city-based label House of Three.

The double-breasted blazer has a purple silk lapel with intricate embroidery on it. City-based designer Sounak Sen Barat, the man behind the outfit, says he could not have been prouder of the way it looked on her. He says the eggplant silk lapel has been embroidered with Kashmiri ektaar threadwork and beads, aptly representing the Indian soul with a global appeal, which Castelino accurately brought to the international stage.

"Zohraa (the name of the suit), is part of our Kalgi collection, which is an amalgamation of stitch work from Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. The brocade work you see is made of actual silver zari which was oxidised to get the colour of gold," explains Barat.

Barat says that the rigorous training that Castelino went through, and the pantsuit created magic on the day she returned home.

Fashion stylist and consultant Bharat Gupta, who picked the outfit, says it was a proud moment for them to have a Miss India getting a top-five placement at the Miss Universe pageant after 20 years, and what better way to bring her back home in a power suit.

"As she was coming back to India, we wanted to celebrate her innate Indianness, so we chose a pantsuit but in a brocade fabric, as it suits her really well. Even at the pageant, most of the outfits we had chosen for her had Indian fabric on western styled clothes, to show her global appeal yet her culturally rooted self. When she came back, this seemed like the perfect look for her," says the Mumbai-based stylist.

He is all praise for the Bengaluru-based couture label. "House of Three has many beautiful outfits and their contribution to Adline's wardrobe has been great and this turned out to be one of our favourite outfits."

WHO IS ADLINE?

- Born in Kuwait, into a Catholic family whose roots are in Udupi
- Returned to India, at the age of 15 for higher studies
- Holds a degree in Business Administration
- Appeared in music videos Mere Dil Vich by Arjun Kanungo, Tere Bina with Shreyas Dharmadhikari

> ... at the pageant, most of the outfits we had chosen for her had Indian fabric on western styled clothes, to show her global appeal yet her culturally rooted self
>
> - Bharat Gupta, fashion stylist and consultant

CHECKING IN

Tips to cope, from Sudeeptha Grama, psychotherapist

- Remember that all feelings are valid right now and it's okay to not feel okay.
- You're allowed to feel both guilty and grateful.
- Sandwich your news scrolling between two tasks. This way, you can set a timer and get information and updates mindfully instead of doomscrolling.
- If you're checking in on a loved one, avoid offering advice. Acknowledge whatever they are going through and be present instead.

> *We hope this (support group) will help those in the field because sometimes, you don't know what to tell a client and are at a loss of words. There's no handbook for handling a pandemic*
>
> – Manish Shekhar Das Gupta, co-founder, Gulmohar

More people are seeking professional help to cope with the fatigue, loneliness, uncertainty, and fears unleashed by the pandemic, and mental health professionals too are feeling burned out

Matters of the MIND

SIMRAN AHUJA

AS the second wave of Covid-19 infections rages across India, it appears that the battle lines are drawn: You're fighting Covid-19 directly or indirectly, or you're fighting its impact on your mind, or you're fighting both battles at the same time.

Overwhelmed by the situation, more people are seeking out therapy or counselling to cope, mental health professionals say. Citta, a non-profit organisation that provides mental health care, had launched a free of cost 30-minute emotional support helpline (+91 9981857665 / +91 7208107955) on April 22. Initially, it catered to only Covid-positive individuals and caregivers but since May 13, the pan-India initiative expanded its outreach to everyone.

According to Neelika Chakrabarti, people have been calling from over 22 cities. "The common problems that our callers have shared are feelings of anxiety, loneliness, isolation, uncertainty and fear of contracting Covid or losing a loved one," says Chakrabarti, who co-founded Citta with Sagar Menon. "While we do have callers in their 30s and 40s, predominantly, we've been getting calls from those who are aged between 16 and 27 years," adds Menon.

This feeling of despair and helplessness among the younger generation is something even Sudeeptha Grama, psychotherapist and founder of The Coffeeshop Counsellor, has noticed. She recently conducted a free group listening session, where the first hour was spent in expressing feelings, and the second, in learning how to cope better.

"The session, where my colleague Akhila Phadnis and I were the facilitators, didn't just have people from Bengaluru but also those living abroad while their family is here. Overall, there's a feeling of guilt. Those outside India are feeling guilty about how other countries are moving on and life is regaining normalcy. And among those here, there's guilt about being okay when so many others are suffering," says Grama, adding that a sense of numbness and meaninglessness has also crept in.

Mental health professionals are not immune to such feelings, and are themselves feeling overwhelmed and burned out. Gulmohar, a city-based mental health organisation, recently conducted two discussion groups with 24 practitioners. Based on the experiences shared by them - primarily of helplessness and fatigue - they are now starting a support group for mental health practitioners.

"Right now, so many organisations are providing support on a sliding scale or pro-bono basis. So we felt it would be apt to aid practitioners as much as possible now," says Manish Shekhar Das Gupta, a counselling psychologist and co-founder of Gulmohar.

Slated to begin next week, the fortnightly sessions will be 90 minutes each, with 6-8 participants and two psychologists as facilitators. The first couple of sessions will be focused on building rapport and setting the agenda, after which, individual concerns will be explored. "We hope this will help those in the field because sometimes, you don't know what to tell a client and are at a loss of words. There's no handbook for handling a pandemic," says Gupta.

Debolina Ray is a Bengaluru-based blogger, who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Monday. The first prize winner this week will win two DIY meal kits (worth ₹1,800) from Little Italy **

QUESTIONS

1. Chinese food served in Japan, or Japanese style Chinese food is Chuka. A restaurant in Bengaluru has a few of these Chuka dishes on the menu. What is the restaurant called?
2. Shivamogga has this special sweet made with steamed jackfruit, sometimes also called jackfruit idli. What is the name of this sweet?
3. This boutique vineyard near Hospet/Hampi produces award winning wines, and is also ranked in top 50 vineyards of the world. Name the brand/estate.

**Conditions apply

For more food-related stories and recipes, turn to page 3.

On the Feet

City-based choreographer Madhu Nataraj feels art is a transformative tool that can help us out of these trying times

SANATH PRASAD

Art is the best form of respite from the devastating time we are living in, believes Bengaluru-based choreographer Madhu Nataraj.

With this belief, she has organised Moving in the Moment, a dance session that blends dance with meditation and yoga, for non-dancers.

Given that the second wave of Covid infections has been very tragic and stressful, Nataraj says that mental fatigue has set in.

"People are suffering from a lot of health issues. When the second wave began, there were many requests from people to conduct dance classes and pranayama workshops," she says, adding that they began holding classes since Thursday.

That's how she came to conceptualise Moving in the Moment as a way to give people a message of hope and optimism through movement, meditation and mindfulness. The sessions are held thrice a week and those interested can sign up for a month at a time.

"The theme of moving in the moment runs as an undercurrent in the situation at hand and transform the fear, paranoia, and inertia into creative moments that strengthen our body, mind and spirit," says Nataraj.

But Nataraj also decided to take it a step further and donate a part of the fee towards Covid relief. She says the proceeds will go to social organisations and NGOs in Bengaluru which are assisting frontline workers such as police personnel, health workers, officials, and others in need of assistance such as ragpickers.

"This is monetary support to those who are already engaged in welfare activities and in assisting frontline warriors in relief work. Many organisations are working at the grassroots level to distribute food, ration, and basic necessities to some of the front line workers and those in need. I am just helping them build a stable support system to keep the efforts going," says Nataraj.

> Many organisations are working at the grassroots level to distribute food, ration, and basic necessities to some of the front line workers and those in need. I am just helping them build a stable support system to keep the efforts going
>
> – Madhu Nataraj, choreographer

And she has been keeping the efforts going for the past year. Last year in May, June and July, she organised monetary support for artistes in the entertainment industry who were pushed into financial distress due to the restrictions on the industry that lasted much longer than the lockdown.

She raised funds for over 150 folk artistes, and others in four months to help them sustain their livelihoods. The choreographer was also instrumental in assisting children in urban slums and rural areas through her organisation STEM Dance Kampani. The virtual dance sessions provided an opportunity for children to engage the mind, body and spirit in art and expressions to deal with the stifling times.

After contributing to Covid 19 relief activities for over a year now, the dancer says, "I feel I haven't done enough and there is still a lot more to do".

SUMMER CAMP

xQ creativity is organising a virtual summer camp for kids between the age group 9-14 years. Moderated by TV personality Cyrus Broacha, the camp will train children in stop motion animation, video editing, graphic designing and more. **When:** Ongoing **Details:** Insider.in

VIRTUAL GIG

Enjoy a virtual musical concert featuring playback singer Usha Uthup. The event will feature a special list of songs curated based on 'The Original Take on Nightclub Era'. Also get a chance to visit the virtual backstage and interact with artistes. **Details:** insider.com

FOR A CAUSE

The Institute of Magic and Allied Arts is organising an online entertainment event to raise funds for Covid-19 relief activities. The event will feature artistes like Nikhil Raj Sagara, Ujwal, Zubair, Malvika, among others, who will organise music, dance, comic and magic events. **When:** May 23, 6pm **Tickets:** bookmyshow.com

IMPROV STORYTELLING

Enjoy online improv storytelling sessions every Wednesday. The event is hosted by Kaivalya Plays which focuses on giving a platform to artistes and other individuals to present stories, characters and scenes spontaneously. **Details:** insider.in

BANGALORE CLASSICAL ARTS CIRCLE IS ORGANISING A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO CLASSICAL MUSIC ORGANISER PRANESH BABU. DETAILS: BOOKMYSHOW.COM

Online Fun

VYOMA Artspace and Studio Theatre are organising Gurukula live which aim to give children the joy of reading comic books and listening to stories. It also includes quizzes, games, puppetry and other interesting activities. **When:** May 24 onwards, 12pm. **Details:** 7892920189

Covid care dabba

Grand Mercure Bengaluru at Gopalan Mall has launched a care dabba, a Covid-19 care meal subscription plan. The initiative is aimed at providing healthy balanced meals to quarantined individuals at a subsidised price. **For details:** Call 9513289992

LOL

Enjoy an evening of comedy with standup comic artiste Sahil Shah. Some of his jokes will involve the lifestyle brought about by the lockdown, marriage and relationships, and much more. All the proceeds of the event will go towards charity. **When:** May 22, **Tickets:** Insider.in

Musical Tour

Indian Musical Experience is organising a virtual musical world tour for kids. The summer camp aims to introduce children to the world of global music and stories and learn songs in five different languages. **When:** May 24, 10:30 am **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Triathlon Sessions

Triathlon coaching team - Life of Tri is conducting a month-long virtual sports session for athletes. The sessions will focus on cycling and indoor fitness routines followed by interactive sessions with experts from various fields like swimming, running, cycling, nutrition and more. **When:** Ongoing. **Details:** Life of Triathletes website

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

DOUGHNUTS

INGREDIENTS

FOR YEAST STARTER
- **Soy milk:** 2/3 cup
- **Dry yeast:** 2 tsp ■ **Sugar:** 3 tbsp

FOR DOUGH
- **Plain flour:** 2 cups
- **Salt:** ½ tsp ■ **Vegetable oil:** 2 tbsp
- **Yeast starter**
- **Powdered sugar for dusting:** 2 tbsp ■ **Oil:** 1 litre for deep frying

METHOD
- Combine all ingredients to make a uniform, sticky dough.
- Rest the dough for 45 minutes in a warm place.
- Knock back the dough and rest again for 30 minutes. Repeat.
- Divide the dough into 10 and shape into balls, after folding inwards repeatedly.
- Space out the dough balls and cover with a cloth to rest for an hour until double in size.
- Deep fry the doughnuts for 3-4 minutes until golden on each side on medium flame heat
- Once cooled, dust with powdered sugar and serve.

— Pavithra Parthan, Bengaluru

SOUNDBOARD

DARKNESS RADIO
Dave and Tim take listeners on an entertaining journey into all aspects of the supernatural, from ghosts and aliens, to monsters, mysteries, myths and legends with guest experts, experiencers and eye witnesses.
- On Apple Podcasts

THE WILD WITH CHRIS MORGAN
Taking listeners across the Pacific Northwest and around the world, host Chris Morgan explores wildlife and the complex web of ecosystems they inhabit. He also tells the stories of people working in and protecting the wild around us.
- On Stitcher

NATURE PODCAST
The Nature Podcast brings you the best stories from the world of science each week. We cover everything from astronomy to zoology, highlighting the most exciting research from each issue of Nature journal.
- On Apple Podcast

VAYADI
Vayadi is a podcast from Chennai Art Theatre. It features a range of lesser-known and spoken about topics; along with radio plays, artist profiles, technical know-how in theatre and much more.
- On Spotify

THE PERSONAL FINANCE PODCAST
Andrew Giancola from Dollar After Dollar reveals all of his personal finance, money, investing, business strategies, income sources, stock, and real estate investing tips so that you can build more wealth than you ever thought possible.
- On Spotify

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

RX SOORI
A young gangster becomes infamous for his criminal activities in Andhra Pradesh. But things change when he falls in love with his childhood friend.
- Cast: Duniya Vijay, Ravi Shankar, Adi Lokesh

MALLA
Shiva, a florist's son, grows up to become a gangster. After his father is murdered, he sets out to take revenge against the culprits.
- Cast: V Ravichandran, Priyanka Upendra, Umashree

KEMPEGOWDA
Kempe Gowda, an honest police officer and a people's man, takes on a gangster, Armugam. However, the mafia leader has close connections with the bureaucrats, which keeps him safe against the law.
- Cast: Kichcha Sudeep, Ravishankar, Ragini Dwivedi

ANTARAVIRALLI
Sanjay and Nitya fall in love with each other despite facing opposition from their peers. They soon become intimate and Nitya gets pregnant, which causes problems in their lives.
- Cast: Prakhyuth Parameesh, Achyuth Kumar, Chikkanna

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GUILT AND SHAME BY JUNE TANGNEY
We all experience feelings of guilt or shame at some point. What should we do with them? Clinical psychologist June Tangney differentiates between constructive guilt and crippling shame so that we can learn to better identify and manage our feelings.

2 "SQUIGGLY" CAREERS AND THE END OF THE TRADITIONAL PATH BY SARAH ELLIS AND HELEN TUPPER
Career development consultants Sarah Ellis and Helen Tupper invite you to replace conventional, outdated and limiting model with "squiggly" careers: dynamic, open-ended growth paths tailor-made for your individual needs, talents and ambitions.

3 BETTER CYBERSECURITY STARTS WITH HONESTY AND ACCOUNTABILITY BY NADYA BARTOL
Cybersecurity expert Nadya Bartol brings this crucial topic, lifting the shame around tech mistakes and offering creative ways to celebrate and reward good cybersecurity habits at work and beyond.

4 THE SCIENCE BEHIND HOW PARENTS AFFECT CHILD DEVELOPMENT BY YUKO MUNAKATA
Parents, take a deep breath: how your kids turn out isn't fully on you. Of course, parenting plays an important role in shaping who children become, but psychologist Yuko Munakata offers an alternative, research-backed reality that highlights how it's just one of many factors that influence the chaotic complexity of childhood development.

5 HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR "WHY" IN DIFFICULT TIMES BY SIMON SINEK
In a deeply personal and wide-ranging conversation, leadership expert Simon Sinek shares his own experience caring for his mental health as the world shut down. He discusses why we need to nurture friendships (in both good times and bad), explains why anyone can be a leader — and reveals the secret to discovering your "why" in life.

FIT BIT

PREKSHA MEDITATION

(PREKSHA DHYANA)

In Sanskrit, 'viksa' means to see. When the prefix pra is added, it becomes 'preksa,' which means to perceive carefully and profoundly. Here 'seeing' does not mean external vision, but careful concentration on subtle consciousness by mental insight. This meditation connects with your soul at its most profound level and achieve a state of super consciousness. Preksha meditation is a way of purifying the soul, cleansing the body of all types of illness, and providing ultimate comfort and peace both to the soul and mind.

STEPS
- Select a quiet place. Sit either on the floor or on a chair. Keep your spine straight.
- If you are sitting on the floor, sit in Padmasana (lotus pose), Ardha Padmasana (half lotus pose), or Sukhasana.
- Your hands must rest on your knees with palms facing upwards.
- Take the Gyan Mudra — index fingers touching thumbs. Gently close your eyes.
- You can recite any mantra of your choice, like Om, nine times.
- Preksha Meditation has seven techniques. Beginners may practice first three techniques.
- Kayotsarga (Deep relaxation with self-awareness).
- Antaryatra (The journey within).
- Shwas Preksha (Awareness of breath).
- Sharir Preksha (Awareness of body).
- Chaitanaya Kendra Preksha (Awareness of psychic centers).
- Leshya Dhyan (Awareness of psychic colours).
- Anupreksha (Contemplation).

LIMITATIONS
- Initially, do this meditation for approximately fifteen minutes, and then increase gradually to thirty minutes depending on your experience.

BENEFITS
- Helps in purification of emotions and consciousness.
- Regular practise brings positive changes in your personality.
- You can overcome negative feelings including anger, hatred, jealously, envy, greed, fear, violent behaviour, nervousness and emotional disturbances.
- Increases will power, memory, self-confidence, decision-making and understanding.
- Improves psychosomatic diseases.
- Cleanses and relaxes mind.
- Strengthens immunity, controls blood pressure, improves functioning of nervous system, endocrine system and blood circulation system.
- With Preksha, you can overcome various addictions.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

ARISHADVARGA (Kannada)
An aspiring actor doubling as an amateur gigolo gets caught up in a sticky situation after accepting a surprise gift from an anonymous client. Cast: Sumyuktha Hornad, Anju Alva Naik
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

INSPECTOR VIKRAM (Kannada)
Vikram, a police officer, strives hard to solve every case that comes his way. However, things take a turn when he encounters a criminal mastermind who runs an illegal drug operation.
Cast: Prajwal Devaraj, Bhavana
- Watch on Sunnxt

HERO (Kannada)
A barber stumbles upon his ex-lover in the home of a notoriously bloodthirsty gang leader. Misadventures ensue when he tries to help her escape with the gangster's men in hot pursuit. Cast: Rishab Shetty, Pramod Shetty
- Watch on: Zee 5

MELLE (Malayalam)
After a tragic experience, a young woman journeys to her father's homeland and falls in love with a kind-hearted doctor.
Cast: Amit Chakkalackal, Thanuja Karthik, Joju George, P Balachandran
- Watch on: Netflix

KAPPELA (Malayalam)
A young woman falls in love with a man after dialling his number by mistake. However, when she visits his city to meet him, a stranger named Roy enters her life.
Cast: Anna Ben Nayarambalam, Roshan Mathew, Tanvi Ram, Sreenath Bhasi
- Watch on: Netflix

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

CINEMA BANDI (Telugu)
A struggling rickshaw driver's life takes a rollicking turn when he comes across an expensive camera and decides to make a film with his fellow villagers.
Cast: Trishara, Pujari Ram Charan, Uma YG, Davani
- Watch on: Netflix

SARDAR KA GRANDSON (Hindi)
A devoted grandson embarks on a complicated and comic journey to fulfill his ailing grandmother's last wish.
Cast: Arun Kapoor, Rakul Preet Singh, Neena Gupta, John Abraham
- Watch on: Netflix

FOREIGN

THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW (English)
Agoraphobic Dr Anna Fox witnesses something she shouldn't while keeping tabs on the Russell family, the seemingly picture perfect clan that lives across the way.
Cast: Amy Adams, Julianne Moore, Gary Oldman, Wyatt Russell
- Watch on: Netflix

FAUDA (Israeli, series)
After retiring from the Israel Defense Force, Doron is working on a vineyard. Upon learning that an enemy who Doron thought his unit had killed is still alive, Doron rejoins the IDF team.
Cast: Lior Raz, Rona-Lee Shimon, Laetitia Eido, Itzik Cohen
- Watch on: Netflix

THE INTERPRETER (English)
A United Nations interpreter's life is turned upside down and she is targeted by killers, when she overhears a plot to assassinate an African head of state.
Cast: Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn, Catherine Keener, Jesper Christensen
- Watch on: Netflix

LITTLE (English)

Jordan Sanders, a successful businesswoman who treats her employees poorly, wakes up one morning to discover that she has been transformed into her 13-year-old self, who was constantly bullied.
Cast: Marsai Martin, Regina Hall, Issa Rae, Justin Hartley
- Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION
- **Prime Video:** ₹ 129 per month
- **Disney+Hotstar:** ₹ 399 per year
- **Netflix:** ₹ 199 per month

RUBINATIONS
RUBI CHAKRAVARTI
Writer, actor and funny girl

JUST CALL TO SAY I LOVE YOU

Someone once said, "Nothing belongs to us. Even the air we breathe we must exhale." I think these lines are even more poignant now. As people we are trying very hard to hold on to the remaining strands of civility, goodness and humaneness. But alas! Every day we come across or read about people doing the most unspeakable acts of hoarding lifesaving medicines, selling beds to gasping individuals and making large profits on oxygen. It's not as if these individuals are forced to indulge in this depravity to ease the burden on their families, or they desperately need the cash (even that is not a justification!). These are well-heeled businessmen and politicians who stoop to this level in this moment of an unprecedented crisis in our country. For shame! Many of these depraved individuals do it in the guise of philanthropy. I often ask myself why they do it. Does the sight of people suffering, dying and grovelling for a breath of air make them feel superior; give them a God complex perhaps? But don't these cretins realise that what they have is a black hole for a soul?

As much as I try to put the pleas for distress behind me, as much as I try to raise my head above the waves of despair that threaten to drown me, and I much as I try to distract myself by cooking, meditating, and helping out, I still feel trapped! And then the universe decides that perhaps I need to feel the 'real' pain raging around us. A perfectly healthy, non-smoking and drinking, football-playing young father and husband, my nephew, contracts the dreaded Cardi-V. How? No one can understand because he works from home and is extraordinarily careful for his severely asthmatic wife and young son. He gets immediate treatment and is shifted into the hospital in Mumbai because of slightly dipping oxygen levels and two weeks later lands up on a ventilator. There has been no carelessness in his care, Mumbai has beds and oxygenators and yet, this happens!

Kabir and his wife

The family rallies around from all over the world for this beloved couple. My son flies in to be with his sister, my daughter and son-in-law, research institutions, new information on treatment and leverage just about every contact to help. We didn't even know what an ECMO machine was but now we do. The family (mostly the youngsters) have cast a net of love and support and dogged perseverance around his wife and him. The best team is looking after him and we are praying for a miracle which looks like it might happen.

Young Kabir who sold veggies outside a store in our city was a hot favourite with all of us mostly because you couldn't wipe that beaming smile of his face. His wife too helped sometimes and for the little I know he had young children. He died. And before him his wife died. Two young vibrant souls died. It was personal for a lot of us because we never imagined that when we last bought veggies from him that would be the last time we would see him or his wife alive. When and if we come out of this nightmare, the world will surely have changed. Not because of travel, weddings or parities or even work. The picture kaleidoscope of people we knew and cared for will have holes... of those who went away and never came back!

Again I wish I had spoken to Kabir more, and made the effort to swing past my nephew's house to say goodbye on the way airport, called more people... I wish...

Pick up the phone and call a friend or family member you haven't been in touch with, hug your parents, children and animals and tell them you love them. You may not have the chance again.

ICE ICE BABY

This is the season of ice apples, nungu or tadgola. Here are some recipes for sweet and savoury dishes starring this fruit

COOLING VANILLA NUNGU DESSERT

Ingredients
- Nungu - 15 pods
- Sugar - 3 tbsp
- Milk - 1/2 litre
- Vanilla essence - 1 capful

Method
- Peel and wash the nungu pods. Slice them in half to drain the water inside before chopping them into small cubes.
- Add sugar to the cubes and stir. Add the milk and vanilla essence and stir well till the sugar dissolves.
- Refrigerate for two hours minimum and serve chilled.

- Nazneen and Zohara Jamal (@zojamal on Instagram)

PRAWNS - ICE APPLE IN COCONUT MASALA

Ingredients
- Pananungu/ice apples (cubes) - 3 pieces/1 cup
- Cleaned and deveined prawns - 500 gm
- Coconut (grated) - 2 - 2.5 cups
- Green chilli - 6-8
- Shallots - 8
- Ginger (finely chopped) - 1 inch
- Garlic - 6 cloves
- Turmeric powder - 1 tsp
- Kudampuli/Malabar Tamarind (soaked in water for 15 minutes) - 3 pieces
- Water - 1/2 cup
- Coconut oil - 1 tbsp
- Salt - as required
- Curry leaves

Method
- Remove the ice apple skin and cut it into small cubes.
- In a bowl, mix grated coconut, slit green chillies, chopped ginger and garlic, crushed shallots, curry leaves, and turmeric powder. Combine it and crush the mix using hand.
- In a cooking/earthenware pan, add cleaned prawns and the coconut masala. Mix well.
- Add turmeric powder (optional), half cup water, kudampuli pieces and combine well.
- Keep the pan on low - medium flame and cover and cook for 10 mins. Add salt.
- Once the water content is almost dry, add the ice apple cubes.
- Stir it and cook for another 1-2 mins.
- Drizzle coconut oil and sprinkle a handful of curry leaves.
- Switch off the flame and let it rest for a few mins.
- Serve the Prawns - ice apple in coconut masala (called Chemmeen Pananungu Peera in Malayalam) with rice and curry.

- Soumya Gopi (@soumyagopi on Instagram)

NUNGU PAYASAM

Ingredients
- Nungu - 10-12
- Full fat milk - 500 ml
- Palm sugar - 120 gm
- Cardamom - 2

Method
- Chop half portions of the nungu to small cubes and crush the other half coarsely in a mixture.
- Boil milk in a heavy-bottom pan and reduce for 8 to 10 minutes.
- Add the chopped nungu and cook for one minute. Meanwhile add the coarse mixture too.
- Add the palm sugar and crushed cardamom towards the end and switch off the flame.
- Let it cool. Refrigerate before serving.

- Rati Dhananjayan, (@rati_ratatouille_homecooking on Instagram)

NUGGETS

May specials

Magnolia Bakery has introduced a Caramel Pecan Cheesecake this month. This cheesecake is made of a vanilla bean cheesecake, covered with caramel and toasted pecans and sits on a buttery graham cracker base. It is priced at ₹295 plus tax and is available through the bakery's outlet at The Bay, RMZ Ecoworld Bellandur.

New donut treat box launched

Mad Over Donuts has launched a 'Golmaal Jr. Treat Box', which includes seasonal special donuts like Mango Cheesecake, Mango Tango and Mango Berry. They have partnered with Nickelodeon for this initiative. The limited edition donuts will creative toon designs on the package and box toppers of the characters. To order, check Zomato or Swiggy.

Brand comes out with two new chai blends

Teabox, a premium tea brand, has created two new chai blends inspired by the traditions of Ayurveda. The blends are called Rajasik and Rasayana. Rajasik is meant to be sipped during morning hours, and Rasayana is recommended for a calming cuppa in the evening. For more information, visit their website.

High spirits, low carbs

GOUTHAM JAYKUMAR

With the lockdown being implemented, inevitably, a lot of us are missing out on our gym/workout sessions. While this isn't really in our control, one can certainly be a little careful with their diet. With the advent of low carb and low-sugar diets, more and more people are jumping on this bandwagon, but one area that people don't notice or seem to worry about is cocktails.

Be it in a bar (once that actually happens) or a socially distanced Zoom call with friends, people sticking to their low carb diets usually indulge in plain drinks like vodka and water or soda. But what most people don't realise is that the alcohol itself doesn't have too many carbs as these are usually stripped away during the distilling process. So, in short, most spirits are usually very low in carbs. This even includes wine to an extent. Hence, if we want to indulge in cocktails or something a bit more fun, we just need to worry about our mixer, to be honest, that's fairly easy.

A low-carb cocktail

Some ingredients are great substitutes and can be swapped out readily. Take watermelon for example. It can double up as a light, sugar substitute in drinks like a mojito, upping the nutrition and lowering the carb content. Similarly, adding watermelon juice to top up instead of lemonade gives a great addition to the flavour. This can easily be done in classic drinks such as daiquiris and margaritas.

Another simple substitute that can be done is using stevia instead of sugar in your favourite cocktails. Stevia isn't a carb-free replacement but can be used sparingly to replace that flavour if needed. For those who want to try something that is keto-friendly and rich in vitamin C, E, K and B-6, look to the superfood avocado. It adds a creamy texture to cocktails like a rum 'n' avocado where you add rum, lime juice, some avocado slices and a touch of milk or mylk alternative to blend and make a creamy and healthy cocktail.

On the other hand, there are also some classic cocktails that just work without any mods whatsoever. The Bloody Mary is a prime example of the same where everything is fresh and almost carb-free making them perfect (physical or virtual) brunch accompaniments. Go crazy with the toppings, my favourite is some crispy smoked bacon.

For those wine lovers out there, sangria can be done just this way as well, soak your favorite berries and chopped granny Smith apples in some whiskey overnight and add them to your glass of red or white to add a bit more flavour and kick to that plain ol' glass. So if you want to stay true to your fitness goals, and not let a pandemic hamper your plans, you have more than enough ways to really tweak your diet-friendly drinks.

Cheers.

(The author is the head mixologist at Ikigai)

First-time director Ganesh Hegde is elated that his debut venture is reaching a global audience. In conversation with *CE*, he throws light on the film that is presented by actor Vijay Sethupathi

WORLD PREMIERE FOR NEELI HAKKI AT NEW YORK INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL

I had the opportunity to talk about the project to Vijay Sethupathi sir, who resonated with the storyline and connected with certain scenes.

Ganesh Hegde, director

A SHARADHAA

GANESH Hegde's directorial debut *Neeli Hakki* (*Blue Bird*) will be among the three Kannada films to be a part of the virtual screening at this year's New York Indian Film Festival, to be held between June 4 and 13. For the first-time director, screening his film at the NYIFF is a huge opportunity. "Films like *Ondu Motteya Kathe, Lucia, Gantu Moote* were screened at this festival, which later opened up avenues for commercial success. We hope to follow suit," says Ganesh.

The director intended to debut with a simple and honest storytelling form, and the result is *Neeli Hakki*. The movie traces the journey of a 10-year-old boy who chooses his roots over his parents' greed. "Globalisation is a very small part of the film, which is highlighted from the perspective of a 10-year-old. It discusses the kind of freedom or the rights given to a child," says Ganesh. The film has Aman S Karkera playing the lead with Gopal Krishna Deshpande, while Nidhi Hegde and Naresh Bhat are in the supporting cast.

Considered a social drama, *Neeli Hakki* brings together a 30-member crew, including cinematographer Vishu. The entire film was canned in and around the green belt of Sirsi for 25 days. The project was shot just before the first lockdown in 2020 with post-production work done remotely. The crew comprises music director Gagan Baderiya, sound engineer Nithin Lukose, and editor Prashanth. The film, which got a 'U' certification from the Censor Board, will now see a world premiere at the NYIFF.

The film also has Ganesh taking responsibility as producer, along with his three other friends, Suman Shetty, Vinay Shetty and Yogesh. The project, made under Monsoon Talkies, also has the *Katheyondu Shuruvagide* heroine Pooja Devariya coming on board as executive producer and anchoring the whole film. Interestingly, this film is presented by well-known south Indian actor Vijay Sethupathi. "In Jan. 2020, I had the opportunity to talk about the project to Vijay Sethupathi sir, who resonated with the storyline and connected with certain scenes. He offered to contribute in any way and came on board. It was because of his encouragement that the film moved forward despite the pandemic," he explains.

Ganesh wants to work on films that have strong regional and cultural roots with relatable storylines. "Apart from Kananda, there are other languages like Konkani and Tulu which many independent filmmakers want to focus on," says Ganesh, who has previously worked on Rakshit Shetty's *Avane Srimannarayana*. "I was a part of the writing and direction team. Rakshit, who has always been fond of independent films, watched *Neeli Hakki* and appreciated it," he says.

As for the release, Ganesh hopes to bring the film to theatres. "But the situation is not in our favour, and we are not in a position to decide anything at the moment. We don't want our film to get into the bracket of an art film which will restrict the kind of viewers. However, we are not ruling out on an OTT release," he says.

KATE HUDSON JOINS THE MASSIVE ENSEMBLE CAST OF *KNIVES OUT 2*

CE FEATURES

The cast of *Knives Out 2* is growing bigger day after day with the likes of Hollywood A-liters such as Leslie Odom Jr, Kathryn Hahn, Janelle Monáe, Dave Bautista, and Edward Norton joining lead actor Daniel Craig in the sequel to the 2019-whodunit. The latest addition to this massive ensemble is Kate Hudson.

Hudson, best known for her roles in *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, *Bride Wars, Nine, Deepwater Horizon*, and *Marshall,* will reportedly join the film's shoot in Greece soon. Rian Johnson, who wrote and directed the original, will be returning to helm the Netflix-backed sequel, and the film is expected to follow to yet another murder mystery.

Early this year, Netflix acquired the rights for two sequels of Knives Out with a clause that both the sequels should be anchored by Craig and must have at least the budget of the originl.

Hudson, who was recently seen in Music, is also set to appear in the mystery thriller *Mona Lisa and the Blood Moon* and *Shriver* alongside Michael Shannon.

Kate Hudson

SOLOS

Directors: David Weil, Sam Taylor-Johnson, Zach Braff, Tiffany Johnson

Cast: Morgan Freeman, Anne Hathaway, Helen Mirren, Uzo Aduba, Anthony Mackie, Constance Wu, Dan Stevens, Nicole Beharie

Streaming on: Amazon Prime

NAVEIN DARSHAN

SOLOS A HALF-EFFECTIVE MEDITATIVE TAKE ON MEMORIES

The pandemic has drummed in us a real, running dread of death and isolation. While the former ends memories for good, the latter unboxes in your head even those memories you wish you didn't have to acknowledge. What if those dreaded experiences could be turned into insightful, meditative discourses? This seed of an idea may well have been the trigger for Solos' creator David Weil, who has also written and directed a couple of its episodes in this anthology.

Going by the chronological order of its episodes, *Solos* feels almost like a metaphor for life. It has a sprightly start, becomes energetic along the way, goes through a dip, leaves us puzzled for a while and when it halts, finally, all events start to make sense.

All the episodes of *Solos* could have easily been turned into theatre plays, as they majorly centre on a single performer and a contained location. The setting, however, is futuristic, and the location, picturesque as it mostly is, justifies the decision to turn this content into OTT content. The strong technical crew also ensures that when you see ambitious visuals, like, say, a spaceship wandering across the moon or a time traveller interacting with her future self, you buy these ideas without doubt.

RATING 3/5

The writing adds plenty of responsibility on the actors' shoulders.

Less efficient performances, especially for this content, might have spelled disaster, but there is no such problem in this anthology. The impact left by each of the films is rather inconsistent though.

Constance Wu aces with her effortless, efficient portrayal of the perplexed, grey and vulnerable Jean. This character with angelic appearance gets a contrasting introduction as someone with evil desires, but when an unexpected twist hits, we are left in tears. Despite being in the heaviest of all stories, Constance carries the role with elan and makes the rapid transition o her character feel organic.

Anthony Mackie's Tom and Helen Mirren's Peg are introspections on life that are hard not to be enchanted by. Macroscopically, both segments are about unspoken conversations and unrealised wishes. The former is the tale of a young man who has much to do within limited time, while the other is about an old lady who has time on her hand but nothing to look forward to. Mackie and Mirren sell their roles so well that even the biggest Falcon or Queen fan out there should have no trouble seeing them for who they are.

While the depth of the tale serves to uplift the aforementioned performances, the sheer lack of it does a disservice to the efforts of Anne Hathaway in Leah and Morgan Freeman in Stuart. The stories seem to lack a focal point, resulting in the emotions feeling superficial.

Freeman's Stuart (the final episode), intended to connect the dots with the rest, doesn't quite serve the purpose and perhaps this has something to do with the format differing from the other stories, especially concerning the 'voice of god' in this story.

Nicole Beharie's Nera rides solely on shock value. And in an attempt to develop the mystery surrounding the labour of Nera, we are kept away from necessary details that might have helped us forge a personal connection with her. This is counterproductive to the segment and leaves you restless, wanting more. During a crucial scene in Solos, a character shares that they used the memories of others to rewrite their own. Thinking about the merits of this anthology, you could well take it as a cue to let the good taste of the effective episodes override the bitterness of the others. I know I will.

Meghashree

Meghashree marks her debut in romantic single

CE FEATURES

Upendra, Mamatha Shree and Arun Chandrappa

Naanu Naanu Preetisuttiruve, Ninne Ninne Preetisuttiruve. This romantic single recently unveiled by Real Star Upendra, has been garnering attention among music lovers. The story behind the song, produced by Mamatha Shree under Diamond Tree Music Factory, is an enticing love tale. The song features Meghashree of *Krishna Tulasi* and *Dasharatha* fame, who is making her debut in this music album. She is paired opposite debutant Arun Chandrappa in the song directed by G S Kaligowda. He has also penned the lyrics. Set in the scenic beauty of Mangaluru, this love album is choreographed by Murali Master with music composed by Christopher Joseph. The song is edited by Dhanu Krishna, while the camerawork has been handled by Shyam Sindanoor.

CE FEATURES

NEENA GUPTA TO RELEASE HER AUTOBIOGRAPHY *SACH KAHUN TOH*

The Neena Gupta, who finishes four decades in the Indian film industry soon, has penned her autobiography. The book, titled *Sach Kahun Toh,* will be launched next month. Neena made the announcement in a video on social media and also shared a pre-order link. *Sach Kahun Toh My Autobiography.* So excited to announce the release of my autobiography SACH KAHUN TOH next month. Pre-order your copy today by clicking on the link in my profile," she wrote.

Neena Gupta made her acting debut in a supporting turn in *Saath Saath* (1982). She appeared in several parallel and middle cinema movies through the 80s and early 90s. She was a part of International films like Gandhi and a bunch of Merchant Ivory productions. She also featured in and directed several television shows. Neena shot back to glory with Amit Sharma's *Badhaai Ho.*